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ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY



To
The Men Whose Life Records Fill
Its Pages, and to Their Suc-
cessors on The Pages of
History, this Publication
is Respectfully and
Gratefully
DEDICATED



Charles M. Thompson

Library of American Lives

ILLINOIS EDITION

1950

A Source Edition Recording the Recent and Contemporary History of the State
Through the Medium of the Life Histories of Its Most Constructive
Members, and Chronicling the Backgrounds and Activities of Its
Prominent Families and Personages with Emphasis
on Their Accomplishments in Making Illinois
One of the Great American
Commonwealths.

CHARLES M. THOMPSON, A.B., A.M., PH.D., LL.D., LITT.D.

Economist — Historian

Author — Elementary Economics, 1917; History of the United States, 1919; Principles and Practices of Economics, 1928; Economic Development of the United States, 1938.

TWO ROYAL OCTAVO VOLUMES PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED

HISTORICAL RECORD ASSOCIATION

HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

Charles Manfred Thompson

Charles Manfred Thompson was born at Fairfield, Wayne county, Illinois, on November 10, 1877. His father, Elisha Penny Thompson, was a native of Ohio, and came to Illinois with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thompson, while yet a boy. He was a carpenter and farmer and married Margaret Ross Taber, who was a native of Indiana.

The future Dean spent his boyhood in Wayne county, where he attended the rural and fair-field city schools. As a young man he learned the baker's trade which was later to be his passport to adventure and learning. He joined the United States Army for service in the Spanish-American War. Having secured a limited elementary education he worked as a farm and timber hand and taught in a village school before deciding to go farther as a student. He entered college as a student at the age of thirty and worked his way, attending the University of Illinois and Harvard University. He received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1909, Master of Arts in 1910, and Doctor of Philosophy in 1913. He was later awarded the degrees of Doctor of Law and Doctor of Literature. He became an instructor in Economics at the University of Illinois in 1913 and in the years that followed until 1919 progressed upward through the ranks of Instructor, Associate, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor, to Dean of the College of Commerce and Business Administration. From 1919 until his retirement in 1943 he remained Dean of the College of Commerce and Business Administration.

In his position as Dean of the College of Commerce and Business Administration, Dean Thompson set a record of public service that has seldom been equaled. This service threw him in direct contact with the business and professional leaders of the state and enabled him to extend his knowledge of economics beyond the realm of theory. In his private business affairs he became a large land owner, farmer and orchardist in Champaign, Clay and Wabash counties; a successful coal mine company director and owner of producing oil royalties in Illinois and Indiana; Director of Education and Research, Illinois Central System, (1936-42); and business consultant. He is regarded as one of the Nation's authorities on economics and two of his publications have received text book adoption in more than two thousand public schools of the nation. He is the author of: Administration of Governor Thomas Ford, 1842-1846; History of Whig Party in Illinois, 1834-1846; Elementary Economics; High School Economics; Principles and Practices of Economics; An Economic Development of the United States; and The Lincoln Way.

Dean Thompson's public service positions include: Illinois Educational Commission, 1921-1925; Citizens' Traction Settlement Committee (Chicago) 1928-1933; Governor, Rotary International, 1932-1934; Director, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, 1919-1935; Member, Illinois War Council (formerly Illinois State Council of Defense), 1940—; State Rubber Coordinator, 1942—; Chairman, Illinois Post-War Planning Commission, 1943—; President, University of Illinois Alumni Association, 1939-1942; President, University of Illinois Foundation, 1939-1941; Member, University of Illinois Athletic Board, 1939-1941; and Director, University of Illinois Y.M.C.A., 1920—.

Fraternally, Dean Thompson is a member and current National President of Delta Chi (social); member, Phi Beta Kappa (Honorary); member, Beta Gamma Sigma (Honorary) and member and current National President of Phi Eta Sigma (Honorary). He is a thirty-second degree Mason.

While Dean Thompson was at the University he conceived the idea of preserving the record of the growth and development of business and industry in Illinois. To this end he obtained the business history of 15,000 firms. His retirement and his appointment as Editor of Library of American Lives gives him the opportunity to further this idea and thus be of additional service to his state. Dean Thompson is in great demand as a speaker. He has addressed more than 4,000 audiences and has travelled by automobile more than a million miles in the state.

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Plan and Purpose

Back of this undertaking was a definite purpose, and that purpose was to collect and make permanent a complete account of the growth and development of the social and economic life of the people of the State of Illinois.

Across every worth-while human activity there fall the shadows of men and women, and at the heart of every historical account are to be found the personages that make these accounts possible. Accordingly, therefore, the dominant feature of these volumes is biographical.

Histories overflow with the comings and goings of great captains. We would not have it otherwise, but in our zeal to do honor to distinguished leadership we must not, if we are to have a true picture of events, fail to give credit to the loyal fighting forces that make such leadership possible. Illinois has long shared and continues to share with the other American Commonwealths the leadership that has brought us from a struggling band of patriots to the strongest nation ever known to history, yet these leaders of ours in all their greatness would not have us neglect the parts played by the men and women of the state who march under their banners in the battle for a fuller life.

There are many books devoted to contemporary Illinois biography, but not one similar in scope and emphasis to this undertaking. Here will be found farmers and factory owners alongside lawyers, teachers and preachers. Here too will be found the romance of struggle and the joy of success. Our chief concern is with the growth of our state to its present greatness with its social life, with its industrial might, and with the spiritual heritage it is building for its children.

To put the matter in another way, we have made permanent an historical record which otherwise would have been lost forever. Already thousands of social and economic institutions have risen, played their parts, made their contribution to the general welfare, and then disappeared as completely as if they had never existed. The result is that, as heirs of great estates, we have little or no knowledge of the labor and heartaches built into them by quiet, unassuming, men and women whose only reward has been the satisfaction that comes with a task well done. THIS PUBLICATION WILL GO FAR TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION.

CHARLES MANFRED THOMPSON

THE GLORY AND
ROMANCE OF OUR HISTORY
ARE HERE PRESERVED IN
THE CHRONICLES OF
THOSE WHO CONCEIVED
AND BUILDED THE STRUC-
TURE OF OUR NATION.

Library of American Lives

Illinois Edition



HOME OFFICE BUILDING
The State Farm Insurance Companies
Bloomington, Illinois

STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY.
STATE FARM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
STATE FARM FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

In the month of February, 1922, at a meeting held in Streator, Illinois, the Illinois Association of Mutual Insurance Companies endorsed the organization of an automobile insurance company for the purpose of insuring farmers' automobiles. The organization plan was presented to the Association by George J. Mecherle, who became the founder and president of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, which was incorporated March 29, 1922 and began business on June 7th of that year in the State of Illinois.

The first agents of the company were men who had long years of experience as officers of Illinois Mutual Insurance Companies. Their contacts were principally with the farmers, and they were able to attract to the organization the kind of business that was most desirable.

Being a casualty company, the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company offered Bodily Injury Liability and Property Damage Liability protection as well as Collision, Fire and Theft insurance coverage for damage to the automobile. As time went on, Windstorm protection was added, as well as Medical Payments coverage and Emergency Road Service. Comprehensive Coverage was made available for private passenger automobiles and certain types of trucks and school busses.

The 80% Collision Coverage was originated by the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company.

One of the important features of the plan of operation was the six months' policy renewable upon payment of the required premium for the succeeding six months' period.

Farmer's Comprehensive Personal Liability and Comprehensive Residence and Personal Liability insurance were also provided.

Insurance coverages have been expanded and added as the needs of the automobile insuring public demanded.

The Company had been operating on a modest but satisfactory basis in the State of Illinois for about three years when, in 1925, it was suggested that operation be extended to the State of Indiana. The company became licensed, in 1925, to operate in Indiana, Missouri and South Dakota, and continued to ex-

tend its operations into other states over the years until today it is licensed in 40 states, the District of Columbia and the Dominion of Canada.

In addition to insuring farmers' automobiles, the company launched on a program of insuring desirable folks located in towns and cities, with very satisfactory results.

In the year 1929 the company doubled its volume of business and was serving 278,365 policyholders, and by the end of 1949 this number grew to 1,594,058.

All business of the company is written by agents on a commission basis. The company has a State Agency in each state, the District of Columbia and Canada. The State Agency is responsible for the securing of agents and the production of business within the state. There are also a number of District Agents or Managers supervising territory under the direction of the State Agency.

There are now 6,000 agents licensed to write for the company.

The Home Office, a modern, thirteen story building, is located in Bloomington, Illinois. The Company also occupies two other buildings which it owns, and parts of two buildings where space is rented by the company; these are also in Bloomington, Illinois.

There are 1696 employees in Bloomington.

The company has a branch of the Home Office in Berkeley, California, with 536 employees there.

There is also a branch office in St. Paul, Minnesota, with 226 employees; one in Lincoln, Nebraska with 191 employees, and one in Marshall, Michigan with 119 employees.

All claim adjusting of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is done by the company's own staff of adjusters located at convenient points over the territory in which the company operates.

The company maintains 256 automobiles in its adjusting service. A total of 5,556,728 miles were traveled in 1949 in the adjusting of claims for the policyholders.

More than \$32,000,000.00 was paid for and to policyholders for claims and losses in 1949.

The assets of the company as reported to the Illinois Insurance Department as of December 31, 1949 amounted to \$119,526,-

661.00, of which \$55,385,485.00 was Surplus.

The purpose of the company is to furnish low cost insurance to a select group of policyholders.

In response to the demand from the agency force for greater insurance service for their policyholders, the State Farm Life Insurance Company was organized in 1929.

The State Farm Life Insurance Company has over \$350,000,000.00 of life insurance in force.

Also in response to the agency demands for further insurance service, the State Farm Fire Insurance Company was organized in 1935 and now has over \$1,750,000,000 of insurance at risk.

The State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, the State Farm Life Insurance Company and the State Farm Fire Insurance Company furnish insurance protection to more than 2,000,000 policyholders.

The companies have progressed through the years under the splendid leadership of Mr. Mecherle, with the assistance of the able men whom he chose as associates. When establishing the business, Mr. Mecherle sought the counsel of excellent attorneys, Ekern and Meyers of Chicago, who are still the legal counsellors of the companies.

With excellent teamwork, the entire organization has attained a sort of "happy family" relationship, which has contributed much to the success of the companies.

GEORGE JACOB MECHERLE, LL.D.

As chairman of the board of a company which does business in the entire English-speaking portion of North America, George Jacob Mecherle of Bloomington has a far-flung reputation. The organization which he heads—and which he organized—is the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, with head office at Bloomington. Formerly president of the concern, Dr. Mecherle has been succeeded in that office by his oldest son, Ramon P. Mecherle. The second son, G. Ermond Mecherle, is secretary. Dr. Mecherle, one of the biggest employers in the Bloomington area, has made an extraordinary contribution to the civic and economic development of the region and to education and welfare. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington in recognition of this contribution.

Born at Bloomington on June 7, 1877, Dr. Mecherle is the son of John Christian Thomas and Susan Johnson (Hull) Mecherle. His

father, a farmer, was born in Germany and died in Bloomington in 1910. The mother, a native of Ohio, died in 1915. Dr. Mecherle is a graduate of Bloomington's elementary and high schools. Also, he spent a year at the Illinois State Normal University north of the city. Until he was twenty-one he worked with his father on the family farm. Then, for eighteen years, he operated a farm of his own. For another three years Dr. Mecherle was a salesman for a farm implement distributor. With this background in agriculture, he organized the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company at Bloomington in 1922 and was president until 1937, when he assumed his present office of chairman of the board of directors. Dr. Mecherle built the company from small beginnings to the point where it employs two thousand persons in the Bloomington head office alone and operates in every corner of the United States and Canada. There are branches of the company at St. Paul, Minnesota; Berkeley, California; Lincoln, Nebraska, and Marshall, Michigan and the total personnel in these branches and in the field at large is seventy-five hundred.

Dr. Mecherle married May E. Perry of Bloomington, daughter of John Henry Perry, a farmer, and Clara Belle (Orndorff) Perry, both now deceased, in Bloomington on November 6, 1901. She died in 1942. Five children were born to the marriage—Ramond P. Mecherle, the insurance company's president, on February 18, 1903; G. Ermond Mecherle, the company secretary, on August 20, 1904; Mildred M., in 1907, now Mrs. Kenneth H. Noll; and Hubert Carroll and Hubert Lowell Mecherle, twins, on May 27, 1911. Hubert Carroll Mecherle died on January 5, 1943. Dr. Mecherle married Sylvia H. Caldwell of Butler, Pennsylvania, on January 8, 1944. They make their home at 1406 East Washington Street, Bloomington, and worship in the Second Presbyterian Church of that city.

Dr. Mecherle is a member of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Bloomington, the Union League Club of Chicago; various Masonic bodies, including the Shrine; the Bloomington Lodges, Loyal Order of Moose, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and Independent Order of Odd Fellows; the Bloomington Country Club. The Thirty-third (Honorary) degree of Masonry was conferred upon him by the Grand Lodge of Illinois. The honorary doctorate conferred on him by Illinois Wesleyan University is



GEORGE JACOB MECHERLE, LL.D.



RAMOND PERRY MECHERLE

but another indication of the high standing Dr. Mecherle has achieved in his native region.

RAMOND PERRY MECHERLE

In the insurance world a renowned and respected name is that of Mecherle—and Ramond Perry Mecherle of Bloomington is one of the individuals who has helped make it so. Mr. Mecherle is president of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, with head office at Bloomington. He is also an important citizen of that community and the state.

Mr. Mecherle was born in Bloomington on February 19, 1904, the son of George Jacob and May E (Perry) Mecherle. His father, also a native of Bloomington, is the founder, former president and present chairman of the board of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. An outstanding figure in the insurance business in North America, Dr. Mecherle—he holds an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Illinois Wesleyan University—is also the subject of a biography in this Illinois Edition of the Library of American lives. May Perry Mecherle died in 1942.

Ramond P. Mecherle was educated in the elementary and high schools of Bloomington and graduated cum laude from the Babson Institute of Boston Massachusetts. Mr. Mecherle entered the employ of the insurance company in 1924, with the title of superintendent of commissions. This post he held until 1933, when he became vice-president. In 1937 he succeeded his father as president of the company, and he has continued in this capacity since that time. He became vice-president of the State Farm Life Insurance Company in 1943 and of the State Farm Fire Insurance Company in 1935. His brother, G. Ermond Mecherle, is secretary of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. The organization, employing two thousand in the Bloomington home office and seventy-five hundred in branches and in the field, has policy holders in all parts of the United States and Canada. Its branches are at St. Paul,

Minnesota; Berkeley, California; Lincoln, Nebraska, and Marshall, Michigan.

Mr. Mecherle married Mildred E. Murray of Normal on October 9, 1926. She is the daughter of Ernest Afton and Catherine (Quinn) Murray. Her father, a school teacher, is a native of Normal, while her mother is a native of Bloomington. Mr. and Mrs. Mecherle are the parents of two children—Georgia Louanne Mecherle, born on April 22, 1931, and Ramond Perry Mecherle, Jr., born on March 20, 1941. Mr. and Mrs. Mecherle and their children reside at 6 Country Club Place, Bloomington. They worship in the Second Presbyterian Church of which Mr. Mecherle is a trustee.

In his community affiliations Mr. Mecherle is a member of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, the Bloomington Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Bloomington Country Club and such Masonic bodies as the Blue Lodge and the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is giving distinguished service to his community, the state and his field of business.

ADLAI H. RUST, LL.D.

Famed in the insurance world, Adlai H. Rust of Bloomington is also a noted figure in agriculture. As insurance man, he is president of the State Farm Life Insurance Company, executive vice-president of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company and vice-president of the State Farm Fire Insurance Company, as well as treasurer and member of the boards of directors of all three companies. In agriculture he is a big grower of crops and breeder of Aberdeen-Angus cattle.

Mr. Rust was born amid the present center of all his activities, McLean County, on April 16, 1892. His father was Francis M. Rust, a farmer and stock raiser in the county, and his mother was Julia Hollis, the daughter of Berry and Elizabeth Hollis. Adlai Rust prepared himself for a legal career. After graduating from Bloomington High School, he studied law at Illinois Wesleyan University, also in Bloomington, receiving his degree of

Bachelor of Laws in 1914 and being admitted to the Illinois Bar in October of that year. He took part in high school and college athletics and was a member of the State Championship High School team in 1910. In his four years at Illinois Wesleyan the basketball team, of which he was a member, won the State Championship twice.

From October, 1914, to September, 1929, Mr. Rust practiced law in Bloomington. He had become associated with the State Farm Insurance Companies in the course of his legal career and in 1929 gave up his law practice to devote his full time to them. And today he is top or one of the top executives of all the automobile, life and fire insurance concerns, serving on their boards and having a dominant hand in guiding their policies and growth. He has become known throughout the United States among insurance men and is a former president of the National Association of Independent Insurers.

In 1917, Mr. Rust married Florence Barry, the daughter of Judge and Mrs. Edward Barry of McLean County. Florence Rust died in 1925. In 1932, Mr. Rust married Margaret Marquis, the daughter of C. C. and Nellie Marquis of Bloomington. Mr. Rust is the father of three children—Edward Barry Rust, who married Harriett Fuller and is the father of Florence Margaret Rust and Harriett Hollis Rust; Mary Lou, now Mrs. Henry Richard Schaefer and mother of Henry Hollis Schaefer; and Adlai Marquis Rust. The Rust home is at 31 Country Club Place, Bloomington, and the family church is the Second Presbyterian of Bloomington.

Mr. Rust's "favorite recreation and hobby" is the management of two profitable farms of 1,400 acres in McLean County. All these acres are in a high state of cultivation. Mr. Rust raises crops for market and also feed for the raising and marketing of beef cattle and for the growth and perfecting of his registered Aberdeen-Angus herd. Outstanding among cattlemen in his specialized field, he is on the board of directors of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association. He also

belongs to the Illinois State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. At Illinois Wesleyan he was elected to Phi Gamma Delta and Phi Delta Phi Fraternities. He holds the thirty-second degree in Free Masonry and is a member, in addition, of the Bloomington Club, the Bloomington Country Club and the Union League Club of Chicago. He votes Republican. Whether as insurance executive or as agricultural leader, Adlai H. Rust is making an outstanding contribution to American welfare.

GEORGE ERMOND MECHERLE

Mecherle is a name famed in the insurance world, for it is associated with innovation and progressiveness in this field of human endeavor and with the development of three of the nations' well known insurance companies. George Ermond Mecherle, member of this family, has contributed to the family reputation in the business by outstanding work as an official of the three concerns—State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Life Insurance Company and State Farm Fire Insurance Company. He is Director of Personnel for all three companies and holds other executive or board positions in one or the other of them. In addition, he is noted for his leadership in health and welfare work in McLean County and for his public interest.

George Ermond Mecherle was born in Bloomington on August 20, 1905, the son of George Jacob Mecherle (q.v.) and brother of R. P. Mecherle (q.v.). His father, also a native of Bloomington, famed in the insurance world was the founder of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. His mother is the former May Perry. Mr. Mecherle was educated in the Normal Community High School, Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, the University of Illinois at Urbana and the University of Arizona, Tucson. In high school he was on the football team, at the University of Illinois on the wrestling team.

Mr. Mecherle became manager of the Indiana Underwriting Division of the State Farm



ADLAI H. RUST



GEORGE ERMOND MECHERLE

Mutual Automobile Insurance Company in 1928. The following year he was promoted to registrar of the State Farm Life Insurance Company and in 1930 to assistant to the chief underwriter of the automobile insurance company. It was in 1931 that he assumed his present post of director of personnel of all three companies, and thus is active in the fields of automobile, life and fire insurance. He was elected secretary of the automobile insurance company on June 14, 1937, and this office he also continues to hold. He served on this company's board of directors from June 8, 1936, to June 14, 1948. He is vice-president of the life insurance company and serves on the board of the fire insurance company.

On May 9, 1942, Mr. Mecherle married Marcella Noonan, the daughter of Thomas E. and Birdie J. (Murray) Noonan. The ceremony was performed in Bloomington. By a previous marriage Mr. Mecherle has two sons—G. Robert Mecherle, born on March 9, 1930, and Douglas E. Mecherle, born on April 22, 1932. He and his family make their home at 708 LaFayette Apartments, Bloomington. They worship in the Second Presbyterian Church.

Active in civic work, Mr. Mecherle serves on the Bloomington-Normal Community Chest Committee. He is also a member of the Masonic order, in which he holds the thirty-second degree; is a Noble of the Mohammed Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Peoria, and, in addition, belongs to the Bloomington Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the Bloomington Country Club and Theta Chi Fraternity. He is a Republican. Golf is his favorite game. He is giving leadership to the development of an important business and to the growth of his community.

GILBERT B. BROWN

Known throughout the insurance business, Gilbert B. Brown of Bloomington is one of Illinois' noted citizens. He is vice-president and comptroller of the State Farm Insurance Company and a director of twenty-five insurance

agency corporations. He is one of the leading figures in the Illinois Taxpayers' Federation and is an active worker in various organizations.

Mr. Brown was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on April 16, 1903, the son of Alonzo F. and Artie M. (Russell) Brown. His father, a native of Windfall, Indiana, is a retired railroad worker. His mother, also born in Indiana, is the daughter of the late Harvey and Elizabeth Russell. Gilbert Brown began his education in the public schools of his native Indianapolis. Graduated from the Manual Training High School there, he then studied at Butler University, also in Indianapolis, and, afterward, at the University of Illinois in Urbana. He has also attended Northwestern University and Columbia University in New York. He is a Certified Public Accountant of both Illinois and Wisconsin.

Mr. Brown has been associated with such concerns as the Western Electric Company, in New York; the Thomas E. Wilson Sporting Goods Company, in Chicago, and Ernst and Ernst, Certified Public Accountants, in Chicago, serving with the last-named firm for ten years. In 1935 he was appointed comptroller and elected a vice-president of the State Farm Insurance Company at Bloomington, and has served in these capacities since then, and has contributed to the success of the twenty-five insurance agency corporations as a member of their boards. In World War I Mr. Brown was with the United States Army.

On November 20, 1948, in New York City, Mr. Brown married Bessie Leigh Clay, the daughter of Charles N. and Betty Clay. They have a son, Gregory Butler Brown. The family worships in the Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington and resides at 15 Country Club Place.

Mr. Brown's interest in public affairs has made him an important figure in many organizations, among them the Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois. In 1948, he was elected a member of this federation's executive committee. Formed in 1943 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization, the federation has a

research and legal staff in Springfield, with field representatives at work on tax problems throughout the state. The organization's objective, toward which Mr. Brown is giving leadership, is to eliminate waste, inefficiency and unnecessary spending by local, state and federal governments. Mr. Brown is also a member of the Masonic order, including such bodies as the Shrine; the Union League Club of Chicago; the Controllers Institute of America and the Bloomington Country Club. He is a Republican. His favorite sports are golf, fishing and hunting. Mr. Brown's zeal as a citizen is widely recognized, and he has become popular and influential in many movements.

MORRIS GREENLEAF FULLER

In the life insurance business since 1912, Morris Greenleaf Fuller is now Executive Vice-President and member of the board of directors of the State Farm Life Insurance Company of Bloomington. Mr. Fuller, whose military experience began in 1904 when he was twelve years old, is a veteran of both World Wars I and II.

Mr. Fuller was born in Gallipolis, Ohio, on February 24, 1892, the son of William Burt and Ada (Morris) Fuller. His father, a furniture manufacturer, was also a native of Gallipolis. The mother, another native Ohioan, was the daughter of Joseph C. and Emma (Carr) Morris. Educated in the public schools, Mr. Fuller began his career in the life insurance world as an actuarial clerk in 1912 with the American Central Life Insurance Company of Indianapolis. Little by little he rose in life insurance work, advancing from actuarial clerk to statistician, agent and agency manager. From there he went to state agent and then superintendent of agents. After serving in both the home office and agency staffs of two companies, he joined his present company as vice-president in 1929, finally becoming executive vice-president. This career has brought his name to the fore in the insurance world and enabled Mr. Fuller to serve thousands of his fellow Americans.

On June 28, 1917, at Indianapolis, Mr. Fuller married Octavia Carr, the daughter of Carroll B. and Murrie G. Carr. They have four children and five grandchildren—Alice, the wife of Donald L. Warren and the mother of Carol and Stuart Warren; Carroll W. Fuller, who married Thelma Randall; Myra, the wife of Charles A. Harper, Jr., and mother of Charles A. Harper, II, and Douglas O. Harper;

and Douglas G. Fuller, who married Elaine A. Arbogast and is the father of Melissa Fuller. Mr. and Mrs. Morris G. Fuller reside at 901 North McLean Avenue, Bloomington.

Mr. Fuller entered Kenyon Military Academy in 1904 and this began what has proved to be a long military career. He enlisted in the Ohio National Guard and later transferred to the Indiana National Guard, in which he went from Private to First Sergeant. He was with the Indiana National Guard in 1917 when the United States entered World War I and he went into the active service with the United States Signal Corps, with the rank of Second Lieutenant. He was transferred, as a First Lieutenant, to the United States Infantry and was later promoted to Captain. In World War II Mr. Fuller took a military leave of absence from the insurance business to accept a commission as Captain in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. In the course of the war he was transferred as a Major to the Adjutant General's Department. After the war he returned to his duties with the State Farm Life Insurance Company. He is active in the American Legion at Bloomington, and also in Bloomington Lodge No. 43, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Bloomington Consistory, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite; the Chicago Athletic Association; the Bloomington Country Club; the Bloomington Young Men's Association; and the Mohammed Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is a Republican. For recreation he likes handball, baseball and swimming. He has made many contributions to business and civic development at Bloomington, and to the insurance field as a whole.

FLETCHER BENNETT COLEMAN

A lawyer who once practiced his profession at Danville, Fletcher Bennett Coleman of Bloomington since 1928 has been channeling his legal knowledge and abilities into insurance claims work and today is Vice-President in Charge of Claims of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. He is well known in the insurance business and also in civic and fraternal organizations and religious work.

Born at Danville on July 29, 1903, Mr. Coleman is the son of Walter F. and Louisa Hammond (Bennett) Coleman. His father, a native of Vermilion County, Indiana, is now retired. His mother, also born in the Hoosier State, is deceased. Fletcher Coleman is a graduate of the Danville High School and holds the degree of Bachelor of Laws from



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES
Left to right seated: Morris G. Fuller, T. F. Campbell, Gilbert B. Brown, A. W. Tompkins.
Left to right standing: Fletcher B. Coleman, James H. Parsons, Harold E. Curry.

Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington. At high school he was on the track team. At law school, from which he was graduated in June, 1926, he was elected to Phi Alpha Delta, the legal fraternity. Admitted to the Illinois Bar in October, 1926, Mr. Coleman became affiliated with Oliver D. Mann in practice at Danville in November, 1926. In May, 1928, he gave up the practice of law to take a position in the Chicago claim office of the Indemnity Insurance Company of North America. He resigned that position in October, 1928, to become superintendent of claims of the Iroquois Auto Insurance Underwriters of Danville. In December, 1930, he left that organization to accept a place in the legal department of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company at Bloomington. He was promoted to Superintendent of Claims on September 1, 1933, and elected Vice-President in Charge of Claims in June, 1940. He has become an authority on claims work in the insurance world.

On September 8, 1924, at Terre Haute, Indiana, Mr. Coleman married Frances Lucille Phillips, the daughter of Lillian and James Phillips. Mrs. Coleman is active in DeMolay and the Rainbow Girls Mothers' Club and serves on the Bloomington Country Club golf and bridge committees. There are three children—Maurine Coleman, Carole Coleman and Fletcher Bennett Coleman, Jr. The family resides on Rural Route No. 3, Bloomington, and attends St. Matthews' Episcopal Church. Mr. Coleman, at present a member of the church's building committee, is a former junior warden and member of the endowment committee.

In his fraternal activities Mr. Coleman is a member of Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Bloomington Consistory, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, in which he holds the thirty-second degree, with meritorius service award, and in which he is Second Lieutenant Commander; Bloomington Commandery, No. 24, Knights Templar, and Mohammed Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Peoria. He is also active in the Bloomington Country Club. By way of hobby Mr. Coleman maintains three registered saddle horses. These are shown by his children at horse shows at county and state fairs. In politics Mr. Coleman is a Republican. His activities have done much to promote the growth of Bloomington and McLean County and contributed to the development and prestige of the insurance business.

ARTHUR W. TOMPKINS

To numerous practitioners in the insurance world Arthur W. Tompkins of Bloomington is known as the man who for years has led in the work of expanding the operations of the State Farm Insurance Companies. For from local agent for the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company in South Dakota he has risen to agency vice-president of the State Farm fleet, which includes in addition to the State Farm Mutual, the State Farm Life and the State Farm Fire Insurance Companies, with headquarters in the Home Office, Bloomington Illinois. Mr. Tompkins has a national reputation as an insurance executive and also a local reputation for civic and organizational interests.

He was born at Wyoming, Iowa, on August 6, 1895, into a prominent farming family. His parents were Albert T. and Margaret E. (Shaffer) Tompkins, also natives of Iowa. After graduating from the Wyoming High School, Arthur Tompkins went to the South Dakota State College at Brookings, where he took the degree of Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry. Before he could begin his career, which was at first strictly in agriculture, Mr. Tompkins found the United States at war, and from June to November, 1918, he served as first a private in the Trade Test Section of the Army, then as a candidate in the Field Artillery Officers' Training School. From 1925 to 1935 he was in the Officers Reserve Corps beginning as a Second Lieutenant and advancing to a First Lieutenant. After World War I Mr. Tompkins continued with his career. He had served in February, 1918-May, 1918 as an assistant emergency demonstration leader for the United States Department of Agriculture in South Dakota. After the war, from January, 1919, to March, 1924, he was county agricultural agent at Hayti, South Dakota. From March, 1924, to November, 1930, he served as executive secretary to the South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation and from December, 1925, to January, 1927, he was local agent for the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company at Huron, South Dakota. This was the beginning of his career in insurance. In January, 1927 he became state director for the State Farm Mutual in South Dakota with headquarters at Huron. In 1928 he also became state director in North Dakota. In 1929 the supervision of agency activities in South Dakota for the State Farm Life were added to his responsibilities. In November, 1930, he was appointed assistant superintendent.

ent of agents for these companies at the home office in Bloomington. On December 15, 1930, he was advanced to superintendent of agents and in June, 1934, he was appointed agency vice-president.

Mr. Tompkins married Dortha E. Christopher of Minneapolis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex B. Christopher, on June 30, 1920. Well known in Bloomington, Mrs. Tompkins is chairman of the Home Service Bureau of the American Red Cross Chapter there, serves on the Bloomington Board of Education and is chairman of the music committee of the family church, Wesley Methodist. Mr. Tompkins is also prominent in this church's affairs, being one of its trustees and chairman of the building finance committee. Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins have two sons and a daughter—Arthur W. Tompkins, Jr., who married Connie Thomassen and is the father of Christopher W. Tompkins, Margery B. Tompkins, and Roger B. Tompkins. The family home is at 40 White Place, Bloomington.

A leading figure among insurance men, Mr. Tompkins was a member of the board of directors of the Life Insurance Agency Management Association, Hartford, Connecticut, (formerly the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau) from 1940 through 1942. In 1947, 1948 and 1949 he was chairman of the education committee, Bloomington Association of Commerce. He is also a member of the National Association of Life Underwriters, the Kiwanis Club of Bloomington, the American Legion, the Elks Lodge of Huron and such Masonic bodies as the Blue Lodge, Royal Arch Masons, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Knights Templar and Mohammed Temple (Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine) at Peoria, and is a Republican. Golf, volley ball and hunting are his major recreations. He is considered one of the outstanding citizens of McLean County and of the insurance world.

THEODORE F. CAMPBELL

Many prominent figures are associated with the State Farm Auto Insurance Company and the State Farm Fire Insurance Company of Bloomington. Among them is Theodore F. Campbell, who is vice-president of the auto insurance concern and secretary of the fire insurance concern. He has been in the insurance business for four decades and is one of its outstanding personalities. Mr. Campbell's reputation extends beyond Central Illinois into the remainder of the state, and

into whatever center of the nation where insurance men congregate.

He was born in Chicago on December 7, 1894, the son of Alexander Burnette and Clara May (Dingee) Campbell, both of whom were also born in the Windy City. The father is now living in retirement in Chicago. The mother died in 1946. Theodore Campbell was graduated from Chicago's elementary and high schools. To prepare himself for a career in the business world, he took courses with the International Accounting Society and the Walton School of Commerce, both headquartered in Chicago. For sixteen years Mr. Campbell worked in the insurance business in his native city. Then, in 1928, he moved to Bloomington to assume the office of assistant secretary of the State Farm Auto Insurance Company. At the same time he was elected to the board of directors and the board's executive committee of the State Farm Fire Insurance Company. Simultaneously, also, he was made assistant secretary of the United Farm Mutual Re-Insurance Company, the home office of which was also at Bloomington. In 1935 Mr. Campbell was elected vice-president of the State Farm Auto Insurance Company and in 1936 secretary of the State Farm Fire Insurance Company, and these are the offices he occupies today. He has played a recognized part in the development of these concerns.

On April 8, 1916, Mr. Campbell married Shirley I. Reed, a native of Chicago. The marriage took place in that city. Mrs. Campbell is the daughter of the late Elmer Virgil Reed, a native of Oregon, Illinois, who was also in the insurance business (he died in 1945), and of Emma Jane (Carrick) Reed, who was also born at Oregon and who survives her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have one son, Robert Theodore Campbell, who was born on March 6, 1920. The son married Emma Soper and is the father of two children—Robert Campbell, born in 1947, and Theodore Campbell, born in 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore F. Campbell reside at 1201 Broadway, Normal, Illinois. They are both members of the Methodist Church. Mr. Campbell also belongs to the Masonic order in Bloomington and to the Bloomington Country Club and Bloomington Club. He makes an avocation of singing. His other relaxations are golf and reading. Mr. Campbell has attained leadership in a field which is generally recognized as one of the most important to the nation.

HAROLD ELLSWORTH CURRY

The career of Harold Ellsworth Curry of Bloomington has included teaching at a famous university, handling research for a Farm Bureau Federation and considerable experience in the insurance world. Today he is actuary for the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company and a figure of importance in the business. He has a reputation in health and welfare work and in religious activities.

Mr. Curry's birth occurred at Plain City, Ohio, on March 22, 1906, and he is the son of Charles Ellsworth and Flora Amelia (Adams) Curry. His father, also born at Plain City, was a farmer. Mr. Curry's maternal grandfather was John Qunicy Adams, a descendant of the second President of the United States. At Ohio State University, Columbus, which he attended for five years, the actuary was active in baseball, track and wrestling and was elected to Alpha Gamma Sigma, professional agricultural fraternity. From 1927 to 1929 Mr. Curry served as assistant instructor in economics at Ohio State University. From 1929 to 1931 he was assistant director of research for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. Then, in 1931, he entered the automobile insurance field as actuary for the Farm Bureau Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. In 1934 the duties of actuary for the Farm Bureau Mutual Fire Insurance Company were added to those he was already carrying, and the two posts he held until 1945. Within this period, 1935 to 1942, he was also actuary for the Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. For six months in 1945 Mr. Curry was general manager of the General Assurance Company. Since 1946 he has been serving as actuary of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company at Bloomington.

Mr. Curry was first married in 1930. His first wife died. On April 29, 1941, he married (second) Martha Emily Dew, the daughter of Charles and Molly Dew, the ceremony taking place at Columbus. Mrs. Curry, active in affairs at Bloomington, is a member of the Junior Red Cross, the Brokaw Hospital Service League and the Bloomington Community Chest. There are three children—Joan Caryl Curry, Alan Chester Curry and Robert Scott Curry. The family resides at 1115 East Jefferson Street, Bloomington, and worships at the Second Presbyterian Church of Bloomington. Mr. Curry is a former member of the Oakland Park Presbyterian Church

of Columbus, where he was Sunday School superintendent, a trustee and teacher of the Men's Bible Class.

Mr. Curry serves on the boards of governors of the National Association of Independent Insurers and the Independent Statistical Service. At Columbus, he was the First Aid Advisory Committee, was an instructor in First Aid of the American Red Cross and a county commander of the Auxiliary Police. He is now a member of the Bloomington Club, the Bloomington Country Club, the Union League Club, the Life Office Management Association and the Insurance Institute of America. He is a former member and lecturer for the Grange. In his college days he was for two years in the Reserve Officers Training Corps. A Republican, he seeks his diversions in fishing, hunting, woodworking, reading and classical music. Mr. Curry is described as five feet eleven inches tall, weighing 185 pounds, with brown hair and gray eyes, big boned and square shouldered. He wears glasses and smokes a pipe. He is a popular figure in Bloomington and is recognized as an outstanding actuary in the field of insurance.

JAMES HENRY PARSONS

As vice-president in charge of coordination of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company of Bloomington, James Henry Parsons has built a tremendous reputation in the entire insurance world. A man interested in the welfare of his fellow Americans, he has served in leadership capacities in various organizations and movements aimed at civic and social betterment. He is truly one of the noteworthy Illinoisans.

Mr. Parsons was born at Rocky Hill, New Jersey, on December 2, 1896, the son of James Joseph and Anne (Parsons) Parsons. The father, a native of England, served with the rank of Sergeant-Major in the famed Cold Stream Guards of the British Army. He came to the United States in 1892 and engaged in the manufacture of terra-cotta. At the time of his retirement he was manager of the Kansas City Terra-Cotta and Faience Company, Kansas City, Missouri. He died on February 6, 1949.

The insurance executive began his schooling in New Jersey and continued in Kansas City. Following completion of his high school course, he went to the Kansas City School of Law, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1919. Thirteen years later

the school awarded him the degree of Master of Laws. After taking his Bachelor's degree, Mr. Parsons became associated with the law firm of Krauthoff, McClintock and Quant of Kansas City. Then he was appointed superintendent of claims for the United State Automobile Insurance Exchange at Kansas City. From this position Mr. Parsons went to that of manager of the claims department of O'Brien, Hobart and Perrin Underwriting Agency, Kansas City. It was after leaving this firm that Mr. Parsons joined the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. His first position with the company was that of manager of the Missouri Claim division at Jefferson City. From this post he was advanced to assistant superintendent of claims at the home office in Bloomington. Later he was made director of conservation and finally vice-president in charge of coordination, his headquarters remaining at Bloomington.

Mr. Parsons married Esther Eleanor Monteith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Monteith, at Olathe, Kansas, on March 19, 1921. Mrs. Parsons is prominent in civic and welfare work in Bloomington, being a past commissioner of the Girl Scouts and a past president of the Bloomington Young Women's Christian Association, now serving on the board of that organization. Mr. and Mrs. Parsons are the parents of two children—James Henry Parsons, Jr., who married Virginia Marie Wyatt and is the father of Pamela Anne and Hilary Monteith Parsons; and Beverly Monteith, now Mrs. Hugh McCurdy Spencer, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Parsons, whose home is at 1407 East Grove Street, Bloomington, worship in the St. Matthews Protestant Episcopal Church, Bloomington, Mr. Parsons being a member of that church's vestry.

Mr. Parsons serves on the Bloomington City Planning Commission and is a member of the boards of directors of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and the McLean County Chapter of the American Red Cross. He is chairman (1950) of the Bloomington Community Chest Campaign Committee and in 1949 was chairman of the Bloomington-Normal Community Chest. He also serves as president of the McLean County Chapter of the Illinois Heart Association. He was president of the Kiwanis Club of Bloomington in 1950 and is a member also of the Missouri and Illinois Bar Associations, the Louis E. Davis Post of the American Legion and such Masonic bodies as the Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, Knights Templar and Shrine. He is also

a member of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity. In World War I he served with the United States Navy, with the rating of Chief Quartermaster, Aviation (Cadet). Among his recreations and hobbies are fishing, hunting, golf, motoring, photography, reading, current events and foreign affairs. He is a valuable citizen of the nation.

WILLIAM FREDERICK LOCKWOOD

An acknowledged leader in the insurance business in Illinois, William Frederick Lockwood of Kankakee is also outstanding in civic projects and in work on behalf of boys and young men. He is vice-president and the "spark plug" of the S. E. Moisant Insurance Agency at Kankakee, and has held high offices in numerous trade, civic and character-building or youth-serving organizations. He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Library of American Lives, Illinois Edition.

Mr. Lockwood was born in Kankakee on January 10, 1898, the only child of Frank M. and Josephine (Allen) Lockwood. Both his father and grandfather, William Perry Lockwood, were famed in the banking fraternity of the State. The father, who was born in Ohio, was brought to Illinois by his family when he was a year old. The family settled at Cairo. Frank Lockwood completed his education at the University of Illinois, where he took a degree in architecture in 1892. For two years after his graduation, he practiced as an architect in Peoria. Then he moved to Kankakee, where he was soon an outstanding banker and a leading citizen. He retired in 1948. William P. Lockwood, who was born in 1847, was one of the last of the Civil War veterans of Illinois when he died in 1947, two months before his hundredth birthday. He, too, was an outstanding figure in banking and in civic circles.

William Frederick Lockwood received his early education in the elementary and high schools of Kankakee. In the Fall of 1916 he entered the University of Illinois, but soon after the United States entered World War I, he enlisted in the Navy at Urbana. He was commissioned an Ensign and assigned to active duty. After the war, Mr. Lockwood returned to the University and in 1921 was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce. He was president of the athletic association in his senior year and belonged to several fraternities. Following his graduation Mr. Lockwood planned to follow in his father's footsteps and, addressing himself to a

career in banking, went to Chicago, where for a year he was employed in one of the leading national banks. In that year, however, his health broke down, and he was obliged to return to Kankakee to recuperate. When he had recovered his health Mr. Lockwood decided to abandon banking as a career and instead joined the S. E. Moisant Insurance organization. He has become an extraordinary success in this field and has won many awards on local, regional and statewide levels. Also, he has served as president of the Life Insurance Underwriters Association of Kankakee County.

Mr. Lockwood married Cynthia Dyer, who was born on October 27, 1910, the daughter of Wayne H. and Bess (Paddock) Dyer. Her father was a prominent attorney. Mrs. Lockwood is also a graduate of the University of Illinois. She and Mr. Lockwood have two sons—Wayne P. Lockwood, born in 1936, and Stuart M. Lockwood, born in 1940.

Mr. Lockwood's community activities have led to his service (1934-35) as president of the Rotary Club of Kankakee and as a director of the Illinois Round Table and the Kankakee Young Men's Christian Association. He is active in the Boy Scout movement and in the Kankakee Community Chest. He also belongs to the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce, in which he has held several offices, to the Elks and Masonic lodges and the American Legion. He is one of the builders of Kankakee and the State.

EDWARD G. HOLZWEG

The family bearing the name of Holzweg has for many years been prominent in real estate, insurance and financing in Southwestern Illinois. Edward G. Holzweg, of this family, with headquarters in his native city, Collinsville, has also made his reputation in these fields—a reputation which has extended beyond the confines of Madison County and spread into other parts of the State. He is secretary and treasurer of the Home Savings and Loan Association of Collinsville as well as active in the real estate and insurance business, and is also one of the leaders in community affairs.

Born in Collinsville on July 5, 1901, Mr. Holzweg is the son of Gust and Frieda (Meyer) Holzweg. The father is a native of East Prussia, the mother of Hanover, Germany. The elder Mr. Holzweg is president of the First National Bank of Collinsville and the Home Savings and Loan Association as well as a

real estate and insurance broker. Another son, Gus Holzweg, has his own real estate and insurance business in Collinsville.

Edward G. Holzweg was graduated from the Collinsville High School in 1918 and then went to work for the First National Bank, where he remained until 1935, progressing from stenographer to bookkeeper, to teller and finally to assistant cashier. He then became assistant secretary of the Home Savings and Loan Association, at the same time entering into a partnership with his father and brother in the real estate-insurance business. The partnership was later dissolved, and since that time Mr. Holzweg has continued in the same business on his own, employing three persons in this enterprise. On September 17, 1941, Mr. Holzweg was elected secretary-treasurer of the Home Savings and Loan Association. At that time the organization had assets of \$783,508.20. Today these assets are \$2,023,645.76, a growth which is at least partly attributed to his activities in the business.

Mr. Holzweg married Wilma Walters, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Walters of Collinsville, on February 3, 1929. He has a stepdaughter, Mrs. Helen Seitz of Highland Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Holzweg are active in the St. John's Evangelical Church of Collinsville. He has been a member of the official board of this church four times, and president twice, and since about 1925 he has been secretary of the Sunday School. Mrs. Holzweg is a member of the women's organizations of the church.

Mr. Holzweg is a member of the executive committee of the Illinois Savings and Loan League and in 1948 was one of the nominees for a directorship in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago. He has served on the Collinsville School Board since 1940 and is President of the Board. He is also a former president of the Collinsville Chamber of Commerce and holds the distinction of belonging to both the Lions and the Rotary Clubs of Collinsville. He became president of Rotary in 1949, after having been a member only four years. He has served on the advisory committee of the local draft board and was chairman of the tire panel of the OPA in war-period shortage days. He is past master of his lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and was secretary for five years. He also belongs to the Mississippi Valley Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, and was secretary of the Mississippi Valley Consistory Class in 1948. In addition he is a Noble of Ainaad Tem-

ple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at East St. Louis and past patron of the Collinsville Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. The Fraternal Order of Eagles is another of his organizations. Civic work is his hobby, and he has made himself a valuable citizen of the State through this hobby as well as his businesses.

CARL CLARENCE LARSON, M.S.

The reputation of Carl Clarence Larson of Springfield as a chemist and sanitary engineer is nationwide. He is chemist in charge of the Springfield Sanitary District and chemist and superintendent of the Springfield Water Purification System. At the capital Mr. Larson is also known as a musician, serving as violinist for 17 years and concertmaster for 7 years with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. He is further known as an occasional music critic writing for newspapers and as a writer on technical subject for professional organization journals.

Mr. Larson was born at Mazon, in Grundy County, the son of Charles Gustav and Anna S. (Anderson) Larson. Both the parents were born in Sweden, the father in the Province of Skane, the mother in the Province of Varmland. The former, born on October 3, 1868, learned the trade of tailor in his native land, and became a merchant tailor at Mazon, where he died on July 18, 1949. Besides the engineer and chemist, there were two other sons in the family, Lambert L. and Paul F. Larson, both graduates of the University of Illinois.

Carl C. Larson received his early education in the elementary and high schools of Mazon. In 1918, he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the University of Illinois, where he had majored in chemistry, and three years later the degree of Master of Science in Chemistry. In 1921, he became chemist for the Illinois State Department of Public Health, a post he held until 1929. Since 1929 he has been chemist in charge of the Springfield Sanitary District and since 1943 he has been chemist and superintendent of water purification as well.

On July 16, 1922, a year after obtaining his Master's degree, Mr. Larson married Dena Agnes Sloan, the daughter of William F. and Myrtle A. Sloan. The ceremony took place in Urbana. Mrs. Larson, who was born on January 13, 1899, holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science in Home Economics from the University of Illinois. She was awarded her Master's in 1920. She

was valedictorian of her class in 1919. Since the year of her marriage she has been bacteriologist for the Illinois State Health Department in Springfield, and is active in the capital's civic and social life. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Delta Psi, Iota Sigma Chi and Delta Delta Delta sororities.

Mr. Larson was president of the University of Illinois Alumni Association in the year 1942-1943 and in 1941 held the presidential post in the Central States Sewerage Association. He is also active in the American Chemical Society, the American Water Works Association, the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, in Masonry (Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine); in the Springfield Yacht Club, of which he was commodore in 1936, and in various fraternities, including Alpha Chi Sigma, Gamma Alpha, and Phi Lambda Upsilon. In World War I, he served with the United States Army Water Supply Service in France, attaining the rank of Sergeant. As a man contributing to culture, technical progress and health, Mr. Larson ranks high among the citizens of Illinois. As a member of the Editorial Advisory Board, Library of American Lives, Illinois Edition, Mr. Larson is making a further contribution.

FRED HANFORD KELLY, LL.B.

Outstanding among attorneys in the oil and gas business and in the bar in general, Fred Hanford Kelly of Mattoon is a member of the famous law firm of Craig and Craig, one of the oldest in the State. He is active in the organizations of the bar, and is a former member of the school board for district No. 100 in Coles County as well as a veteran of World War I.

The son of Park Needham and Leola Mae (Brown) Kelly, the lawyer was born at Mattoon on October 12, 1894. His father, a business man, was born at Mattoon on May 14, 1863, and lived there until his death in 1944; he was the son of James Kelly, who moved from Kentucky to Mattoon shortly after it was founded about 1858. Leola Mae Kelly, born in Newton on October 4, 1867, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Brown. Her father also came from Kentucky, settling in Newton and commencing the practice of law about 1850 and being for many years the only lawyer in Jasper County. Fred H. Kelly was graduated from the Mattoon High School in 1911. Five years later he took the degree of Bachelor of Laws

at the University of Illinois, where he was elected to Pi Kappa Alpha, Phi Alpha Delta and the Order of the Coif.

Admitted to the Illinois State Bar in 1916, Mr. Kelly began his practice in the office of Craig and Craig, and he has been with the firm ever since, becoming a member in 1923. The firm was established in 1868 by Judge James W. Craig and has been in continuous practice in the same location, 1803 Broadway, Mattoon, since that year. In 1939 the firm opened an office in Mount Vernon, Illinois, and now consists of six partners and employs three other lawyers. Mr. Kelly has been actively engaged in general trial practice for virtually all his professional career. The firm is especially noted for its large representation of corporations and individuals engaged in the oil and gas business in litigation resulting from the oil development in Illinois during the years since about 1935. Mr. Kelly has been appearing in many cases in the Federal District Courts as well as the United States Circuit Court of Appeals of the Seventh and Eighth Circuits and is admitted to practice in the United States Supreme court. He has also argued many cases in the Appellate and Supreme Courts of Illinois.

On September 29, 1923, at Mattoon, Mr. Kelly married Marjorie Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Taylor of Dana, Indiana. In World War II, Mrs. Kelly drove trucks for both the Army and Navy as a member of the American Red Cross and is otherwise active in public affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly became the parents of two sons—Robert W. Kelly, who married Frieda B. Howes and is the father of Kathleen Ann Kelly; and Don Kelly, deceased. The Kelly home is at 3417 Western Avenue, Mattoon.

Mr. Kelly served on the School District No. 100 board of education in Coles County from 1934 to 1946. He is a former secretary of the Mattoon Bar Association and the Coles County Bar Association and is also active in the Illinois State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He is now on the board of directors and is a former president of the Mattoon Golf and Country Club. In World War I he was a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery Reserve Corps. He worships in the Presbyterian Church and is a Republican.

He is an influential figure in the civic as well as the legal world.

CLEGG WALKER

Of the fourth generation of the Walker family associated with the Isaac Walker Hardware Company of Peoria, Clegg Walker is president of that concern today, and in this capacity has become known throughout Central Illinois. His company is one of the largest in its field—wholesale hardware and mill supply distribution—in that region.

Born on October 1, 1916, in Ontario, San Bernardino County, California, Mr. Walker is the son of the late Ward Walker, who was president of the Isaac Walker Hardware Company before him, and Jessie M. (Kriechbaum) Walker, who survives her husband. Ward Walker, a native of Peoria, died on May 6, 1949. He was the grandson of Isaac Walker, who founded the wholesale firm in 1842.

Clegg Walker was educated in the elementary and high schools of Peoria, in a preparatory school at Asheville, North Carolina, and at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana. He holds a bachelor's degree from Wabash. In 1939, he became associated with his father in the operation of the Isaac Walker Hardware Company, starting as a warehouseman. In 1946 he was elected vice president of the corporation and in 1949, following his father's death, president. The company, which carries a complete line of hardware and mill supplies and operates exclusively in the wholesale field, covers the entire Central Illinois territory and employs ninety-two men and women. It has developed tremendous prestige through the years and has contributed to the growth and prosperity of the region.

On December 19, 1940, in Chicago, Mr. Walker married Jane R. Raber of that city, the daughter of Henry F. Raber, Chicago educator who died in 1946, and Lucille B. (Burton) Raber, also of Chicago, who is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Walker are the parents of two children—Susan C. Walker, who was born on June 9, 1941, and Deborah B. Walker, who was born on July 11, 1944. Peoria is the native city of both daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Walker and their children worship in the Presbyterian Church. Their home is at 600 Miller Road, Peoria. Mr. Walker's place of business is at 800 South Washington Street.

Active in Peoria's community life, Mr. Walker is a member of the Rotary Club of Peoria, the Peoria Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Commerce, the Cosmopolitan Club and the Creve Country Club. At college

he was elected to Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. As business man and civic worker, Mr. Walker has won the respect of the entire community.

JAMES FRANKLIN THORNTON

Except for the period in World War II when he was with the armed forces, giving service at home and overseas, James Franklin Thornton has been in the automobile business, having entered that field after leaving the home farm. Today he is a partner in Thornton-Anderson, Inc., dealers in Lincoln and Mercury automobiles, and in the Uptown Tire Service, distributors of General tires. Besides heading these two concerns, Mr. Thornton gives much time to community activities through the various civic, fraternal and veterans' groups to which he belongs.

Mr. Thornton was born at New Berlin, Sangamon County, on September 4, 1913. He is the son of James Franklin and Maude (Yates) Thornton. His father, born in Sedalia, Missouri, has been a farmer and cattle breeder at New Berlin, for many years. The mother is a native of New Berlin. The younger James Franklin Thornton went through the primary and high schools of New Berlin and spent a year at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. He had worked with his father on the farm at various times in his growing-up period. After leaving the university, he returned to the farm and remained there until 1938, when he was twenty-five. From 1938 to 1941 he was with the Corn Belt Motor Company at Bloomington, Illinois, and this was his introduction to the automobile business. In 1941, Mr. Thornton entered the United States Army. Attached to the Ordnance Department, he served in the states and in the European Theater of Operations. When he was discharged on October 31, 1945, he was holding the rank of Master Sergeant. Upon his return to civilian life, Mr. Thornton was associated with the Yates Company, of Bloomington, for the remainder of 1945 and part of 1946. In 1946, he led in the organization of Thornton-Anderson, Inc., and has been president of the firm since that time. This Lincoln-Mercury dealership is located at 207 South Gridley Street, Bloomington, and serves a large portion of McLean County and the surrounding region. The Uptown Tire Service is also an extensive business, with a large distributing territory. Altogether Mr. Thornton employs thirty persons, and he is well known in the automobile and related fields of business.

On May 1, 1948, at Bloomington, Mr. Thornton married Rosalie Schillinger, who was born in that city and is the daughter of Peter Paul Schillinger, a native of Chicago, co-owner of the West Side Clothing Store in Bloomington, and Josephine (Reck) Schillinger, native of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Thornton reside at 2020 East Jackson Street, Bloomington, and worship in the Methodist Church.

Mr. Thornton is a member of the American Automotive Association, the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association, the Bloomington Automobile Dealers Association, the Bloomington Association of Commerce, the Bloomington Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Bloomington Post of the American Legion, and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, being a member of the Bloomington consistory. Through his business and other activities Mr. Thornton has played a major role in the contemporary development of Bloomington.

ILLINOIS ODD FELLOWS' CHILDREN'S HOME

"No greater, nobler work is given to man than to see that children are reared in surroundings which will develop to their fullest capacity all that is noble and pure and right in the human mind and heart." That is the task to which the Grand Lodge of Illinois, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the State Convention of the Sisters of the Rebekah Degree dedicated themselves and their successors when, in 1889, they established the Illinois Odd Fellows' Children's Home at Lincoln.

Today the Home, now under the leadership of William R. Wilson, as superintendent, and his wife, Helen Ruth Wilson, as matron, is one of the great institutions of the state and the nation. That it has adhered to the philosophy under which it was established may be seen from, first, the fact that its former resident, now adult, are successful citizens, or plain "Mr. and Mrs. Average American," and, second, the fact that the Home is held in such high esteem by child-care specialists and authorities and the public at large.

The Home has a capacity of 85. It admits boys and girls from the ages of three to twelve, receiving the children through Odd Fellows lodges in the state, through court commitments or parents and guardians. Until the current year, 1950, the Home maintained its own school through the first eight grades and the graduates were then admitted to the Lincoln Community High School without ex-

amination, but the children now attend the public school. Various trades are taught the children, among them farming, dairying, cooking and sewing. Year after year former residents of the Home return to hold reunions, bringing stories of their successes and contentment in their worldly life. The Home is supervised by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, the President of the Rebekah State Assembly, a board of directors composed of Rebekahs. The first superintendent—who was also matron—was Mrs. Lizzie L. Morrison, who had been one of the founding Rebekahs in 1889. After her came Dr. J. A. Lucas, superintendent, and Mrs. Lucas, matron; Roy H. Johnson, superintendent, and Mrs. Johnson, matron, and H. J. Kahney, superintendent. Under Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, the present superintendent and matron, respectively, are housemothers, teachers, maintenance workers, a secretary and recreational and religious directors. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are well known among institutional administrators and have done much to bring the Home to its contemporary high place among institutions serving so important a need in the state.

PETER ANDREAS BERTRAM, SR.

The tremendous talents and skills brought to America by Danish dairymen have had the most favorable effect on America's butter industry. Though Peter Andreas Bertram was born in Denmark he did not learn the butter-making trade in his native land. But when he did become an apprentice in America, it was to a Dane. He had, however, been born on a Danish farm and been exposed in the first twenty years of his life to farming and dairying and this, under a Danish father, meant much to his career. Today he and his son, Peter Andreas Bertram, Jr., operate the highly successful Mattoon Butter Company at Mattoon, one of the best known firms in this field in Central Illinois. The Bertrams, father and son, are prominent in Mattoon's civic life. The son who is in the business and two others served in American armed forces in World War II.

Peter Andreas Bertram, Sr., was born at Esbjerg, Denmark, on February 21, 1892, the son of Soren Peter and Maren (Lauridsen) Bertram. Both parents were born at Roust, Denmark, and the mother was the daughter of Kristen and Abalone Lauridsen. Soren Peter Bertram was a farmer who later went into the grocery and real estate business in Denmark.

Peter Andreas Bertram, Sr., received his early education in the public schools of Denmark. In 1912, he emigrated to the United States and attended Danish-American College at Elk Horn, Iowa. He then served as an apprentice butter maker in York, Nebraska, under Chris Nielsen. He afterward became a butter maker at the Litchfield Creamery, Litchfield, Illinois, where he remained from 1916 to 1920 and where he met his future wife, the bookkeeper of the concern.

That young woman was Jenny McAfee, the daughter of Joseph and Mary Jane McAfee. She and Mr. Bertram were married at Litchfield on March 21, 1917. Four children were born to them—Joseph Lauridsen Bertram, now deceased; Peter Andreas Bertram, Jr., his partner, who married Ellen Rose Huckleberry, daughter of Charles and Edna Huckleberry, in Charleston on July 14, 1945. They have a daughter—Linda Lee born August 19, 1949; Soren James Bertram, who is a mortician at Aurora, Illinois, and Marian, now the wife of John Truman Kite and mother of Sharon Kay Kite.

In 1920, about three years after his marriage, Mr. Bertram moved his family to Mattoon, where he launched the Mattoon Creamery, an enterprise he operated with considerable success for many years. Later, he was in the creamery business in Decatur, Clinton and Edwardsville. In 1930, he moved to Russellville, Arkansas, where for eight years he operated another creamery and where his four children received most of their educations. In 1939, Mr. Bertram took the family back to Illinois and for the next six years or so operated the Purity Dairy at Charleston. On January 1, 1946, he and Peter Bertram, Jr., bought the Mattoon Butter Company, which they have since operated as a partnership. Like his father, the younger Mr. Bertram is well known in the community. A graduate of various flying schools, he served from May, 1941, to May, 1945, as First Officer with the British Air Transport, transporting planes throughout the British Isles. He was a ferry pilot for the Piper Aircraft Corporation at Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, until his World War II service. Mr. Bertram's oldest son, Joseph, a staff sergeant with the United States Army Air Forces, was lost in action off the East Coast of Sicily when his plane sank into the Mediterranean in a bombing mission on July 14, 1943. The youngest son, Soren, was a technical sergeant with the Army in the war, serving in both England and Germany. For a time after the surrender,

he was in civil service in Germany for the United States.

The senior Mr. Bertram is a member of the Rotary Club of Mattoon. Peter Bertram, Jr., belongs to the Lions Club and is also a director of the Mattoon Athletic Association. Both are highly respected in the community.

CLARENCE WARREN DOLL, A.I.A.

The first architect to open an office at Mattoon, Clarence Warren Doll is today one of the outstanding architects and professional engineers in Central Illinois, the designer of numerous private, commercial and industrial structures and public edifices. He is also a pioneer in several ideas in architectural design and is noted for his contribution to the art. He has given his services to various public bodies, serving without pay to promote the general welfare, especially in postwar housing. He is active in many professional, civic and fraternal organizations, and also in the religious world. He is a veteran of World War I.

Born in Clark County on August 29, 1899, Clarence Warren Doll is the son of Allen Edward and Nancy Elizabeth (Patton) Doll. His father, a native of the same county, was a flour miller in Illinois and Missouri, and also a baker and farmer. He invented a sifting machine for flour and bakery machines of various types.

The architect began his schooling in Missouri. In 1922, he was graduated from the Chicago Technical College with the degree of Bachelor of Architectural Engineering, and then served an "apprenticeship" in the Chicago architectural offices of Rissman and Hirschfield, Rapp and Rapp and Graven and Maeger.

In 1926 Mr. Doll was licensed to practice architecture, and opened his office in Chicago. At about the same time he became professor of architecture and building construction at the Chicago Technical College. He wrote some of the textbooks used in these classes and as a practicing architect pioneered in the use of more than two colors in enameled iron for storefronts. During his Chicago period Mr. Doll was architect for the City of China at the Texas Centennial Exposition in Dallas. In June, 1941, Mr. Doll moved to Mattoon and became the first architect to open an office there. This, he says today, took a little missionary work. His first commission was a Swiss chalet for Dr. and Mrs. S. B. Nuzie and next came a church at Hazel Dell and a modern ranch house for Mr. and Mrs. Fred

Kuehne II. World War II slowed up his work, but he did get some priorities for such projects as the Mattoon Fire Station and Drill Tower. Until materials became more plentiful, he worked in the map department of the Carter Oil Company, conducting whatever private practice the war permitted him. Mr. Doll has designed the Chinese Christian Union Church in Chicago and was supervising architect for the Mattoon Lamp Works of the General Electric Company, and he is at present (1949) working on a commission for the Illinois State Armory in Mattoon. His practice embraces all the branches of architecture, covering residences, industrial plants, office buildings, stores, schools, institutions, churches and others. He pioneered floor panel radiant heating in Central Illinois. A licensed professional engineer, Mr. Doll not only supervises erection of structures he designs but also does his own structural, electrical, heating and plumbing engineering.

On August 18, 1923, Mr. Doll married Miss Emma Lyllyan Lennon, daughter of John A. and Anna Lennon, at Chicago. Mrs. Doll has been active in school work, in activities for war veterans, in women's clubs and the American Red Cross. She is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Mattoon, the Quadrangle Club, the Women's Associated Clubs, the Mattoon Golf and Country Club, and is superintendent of and a teacher in the junior high department of the Presbyterian Church Sunday School. She writes poetry and devotes herself, like her husband, to work for young people. Mr. and Mrs. Doll reside at 1621 Charleston Avenue, Mattoon. Mr. Doll's office is in the Donnell Building, Mattoon.

Always interested in church work himself, Mr. Doll was deacon of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Chicago and helped organize and served on the board of deacons of the Calvary Baptist Church in Chicago. He is now a member and ruling elder of the Presbyterian Church of Mattoon. He is general superintendent of the Sunday School and director of the Westminster Fellowship, vice-moderator of the Mattoon Presbytery and member of the Presbytery Committee on Christian Education. He is a member of the Board of Appeals of the City Building Commission and Chairman of Board of Appeals of Zoning, and in the World War II period was chairman of the Postwar Housing Committee, the steering group for housing which led into the Mattoon Development Corporation. As chairman of the subcommittee on the building code and zoning, Mr. Doll was responsible for the passage of



CLARENCE WARREN DOLL, A.I.A.

the City of Mattoon's code and zoning plan. He is also a director of the Youth Council, which operates the Mattoon Youth Center.

Mr. Doll is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Illinois Society of Architects, the Illinois State Association of Architects; Mattoon Lodge, No. 260, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; thirty-second degree Mason; the High Twelve Club; the Kiwanis Club of Mattoon (he was president and vice-president of the Kiwanis Club in Chicago); elected Lt. Governor Division 12 Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Kiwanis for 1950; the Mattoon Golf and Country Club; the Mattoon Civic Music Association, of which he was treasurer four years and president three years; the Lawrence Riddle Post, No. 88, American Legion; and the Salvation Army Advisory Board, of which he is also president. He has served as chairman of the Central Illinois Chapter's committee on practices in the A. I. A. In World War I, Mr. Doll was a radio operator in the Signal Corps, serving a year with the American Expeditionary Force in France. Golf is his favorite sport. He also likes motion pictures. But he has two hobbies—collecting stamps, mainly United States issues, and working with young people.

Wherever Mr. Doll goes, he leaves the mark of talent upon what he does there—and he is a noted figure in many fields beyond architecture.

ALLAN THOMAS GORDON, D.D.

Throughout a long life the Reverend Dr. Allan Thomas Gordon of Springfield has served humanity in various ways, at home and abroad. Today, after years of service as a preacher in the Christian Church and as secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at Danville, Dr. Gordon is executive director of the Illinois Manufacturers Association, with headquarters in Springfield. He has lent his name and his energies to numerous projects of great significance, and among his present activities is service on the Editorial Advisory Board of the Library of American Lives, Illinois Edition.

Dr. Gordon was born in Brooke County, West Virginia, on November 14, 1879. His parents were John E. and Mary Jane (Marsh) Gordon, the former a native of Maryland, the latter of the Mountain State. John E. Gordon, a veteran of the War Between the States, was an electrical engineer who built several electrical railroads.

The future clergyman and association

builder attended the Steubenville, Ohio, High School, and then continued his education at Bethany College, in Bethany, West Virginia, where he was awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts. In 1905, he attended Yale University Divinity School at New Haven, Connecticut, and for three months thereafter he was in the Holy Land, studying and serving. Upon his return to the United States, Oskaloosa College, now Drake University School of Divinity, awarded him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. For fifteen years Dr. Gordon served as a preacher in the Christian Church, holding pulpits at Niles, Ohio; Beaver, Pennsylvania, and Paris, Illinois. From Paris he went to Danville as secretary of the Danville Chamber of Commerce and in 1928 he assumed his present post as Legislative Director of the Illinois Manufacturers Association at Springfield. Under his guidance, this organization has grown in size and strength, as well as influence. He is also a member of various Masonic bodies, including the Shrine, and served as president of the Rotary Club of Springfield.

Dr. Gordon married Florence E. Masteller in August, 1916. He had previously married Elida Robbins, who died in 1914. He is the father of two sons—John E. Gordon, who is in the clothing business in San Diego, California, and Allan Thomas Gordon, Jr., who is on the faculty of the University of Chicago.

As a clergyman and association executive, Dr. Gordon has taken advantage of every opportunity to serve the people of Illinois and other parts of the nation.

FLOYDE D. SPERRY

A community organizer and organization executive with a record of having guided various cities to greater industrial, commercial, civic and cultural growth, Floyd D. Sperry is today executive secretary of the Bloomington Association of Commerce of Bloomington. His reputation in his field extends into all parts of the State and into the national field.

Mr. Sperry was born in Urbana on December 16, 1904, and began his education in the public schools of that community. Graduated from Urbana High School in 1924, he then entered Coe College at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he was a member of the football team, a natural consequence of his athletic prowess at high school. After a year at Coe, Mr. Sperry transferred to the University of Illinois, where he majored in economics and business administration and where, in 1931, he

took the degree of Bachelor of Science. While in college Mr. Sperry was a member of the Inter-Fraternity Council and several class committees and a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon. Before and after graduation Mr. Sperry was assistant to Dean Charles M. Thompson in the University's College of Commerce, and this may be regarded as the beginning of his career.

In 1933, he resigned his scholastic position to become executive secretary of the Twin Cities Fuel Merchants Association of Champaign-Urbana. A year later he moved over to the Urbana Association of Commerce, where for the next four years he was managing secretary. In 1937 Mr. Sperry became secretary of the Paducah Association of Commerce, Paducah, Kentucky, and there he remained five and one-half years. In 1943 he assumed his present post of secretary of the Bloomington Association of Commerce and has since repeatedly demonstrated his skill and leadership in promoting community development.

In 1935 Mr. Sperry married Ruth M. Shreve of Champaign. They have one son, Richard, born in 1939. Mrs. Sperry was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1932. She was elected to Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority at the University and after taking her degree was a school teacher in the Champaign public school system for six years.

Mr. Sperry has been a member of the National Association of Chamber of Commerce Secretaries since 1934 and of the Illinois Commercial Secretaries Association since 1930. He has been an outstanding figure in the Illinois organization, which he served as secretary two terms (1936 to 1938), vice-president in 1945-46 and president in 1946-47*. He is a graduate of the National School for Commercial Organization Secretaries at Northwestern University, Evanston. He is a past president of the Kentucky Secretaries Association and past vice-president for Kentucky of the Southern Commercial Secretaries Association. He is a thirty-second-degree Mason, a Shriner and Rotarian and a member of the Bloomington Country Club. His hobbies are golf, carpentry and "tinkering." He says that he likes all departments of chamber of commerce work and intends to remain in the profession because he enjoys getting people to work together harmoniously for the accomplishment of better things for their com-

munity. He considers his major accomplishments in this field were in the civic and retail phases of Urbana life and the industrial and civic work at Paducah and Bloomington. One of the services Mr. Sperry is rendering his fellow citizens on the State level today is through his membership on the Editorial Advisory Board, Library of American Lives, Illinois Edition.

JOSEPH LAWRENCE SUNDERLAND

"Business goes where it is invited and stays where it is well treated," is a maxim by which Joseph Lawrence Sunderland of Mount Vernon has lived and built his success. He has not only developed businesses of his own in accordance with this principle but accelerated the development of other businesses and entire communities. He is the president of the Sunderland Acceptance Corporation, headquartered in Mount Vernon and affiliated with the Citizens National Bank of Evansville, Indiana, and of the Sunway Insurance Agency of Mount Vernon, both of which concerns he founded. He is a veteran of World War II.

Mr. Sunderland was born at Fairfield, seat of Wayne County, on June 29, 1914, the son of Lawrence Kinzie and Melvina (Creighton) Sunderland, both also natives of that city. His father, a farmer and livery stable operator, was born in 1882 and died in 1947. Also a farmer and liveryman was Joseph Sunderland's grandfather, Kinzie Sunderland, who likewise was born in Fairfield. His mother's father, John M. Creighton, was an insurance man of wide and good reputation. He had a brother, Milton Creighton, who was a Justice of the Illinois State Supreme Court, and another brother, Jake Creighton, who was County Judge of Wayne County. Joseph Lawrence Sunderland was graduated from high school in Fairfield in 1933. He then attended Southern Illinois Normal University, obtaining a teacher's certificate in 1935. After his graduation from the Carbondale institution, he went to work for the Dealer Discount Corporation of Fairfield. In 1938, he resigned from this organization to organize the Citizens Acceptance Corporation, which, like his present firm, was affiliated with the Citizens National Bank of Evansville. Mr. Sunderland was president of the Acceptance Corporation, which progressed successfully, but which he liquidated when the United States entered World War II. At the time of its liquidation, the corporation was doing a million-dollar business. In 1942 Mr. Sunderland joined the United States Infantry and in the following

*He is a graduate of the National School for Commercial Organization Secretaries at Northwestern University, Evanston.

This space reserved for the portrait of Joseph Lawrence Sunderland

year was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the 166th Infantry. In 1944 he received an honorable discharge and in 1945 he went to Mount Vernon and organized the Sunderland Acceptance Corporation, which as president he has led to outstanding success. His other business, the Sunway Insurance Company, handles every type of insurance.

Mr. Sunderland married Marie Annette Gallucci of Kansas City, Missouri, and a graduate of that city's schools, at Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1943. They have one son, Lawrence Kinzie Sunderland, II, who was born on July 5, 1944. The family worships in the Methodist Church and the Catholic Church.

Mr. Sunderland is a member of the Mount Vernon Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the Mount Vernon Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is a charter member of the Mount Vernon Amvets. He is in the forefront of those who are devoting themselves to the development of Mount Vernon and the State of Illinois.

JOHN ALBERT WILL

Prominent in the business world—especially in the soft drink bottling field—John Albert Will of Herrin is also renowned as a Catholic layman in Southern Illinois. In business he is general manager of the Herrin Coca-Cola Bottling Company, founded by his father and owned by his widowed mother.

Mr. Will was born in Herrin on April 27, 1909. His father was Albert John Will, a native of nearby Jackson County, who died in 1932. Albert J. Will, one of Herrin's most prominent citizens, served on the City Board of Aldermen, was active in Republican politics and in every phase of civic and public life. He founded the bottling company in Herrin in 1905. The mother is Mary (Steinle) Will, a native of Minnesota. John Albert Will was born third among eight children. The others are Jeannette; Christine; the Reverend Irwin R. Will, a priest of the Roman Catholic Church; Martin L. Will; Rose Catherine, a Registered Nurse; Robert S. Will; and Mary Elizabeth.

John A. Will was educated in the parochial schools of Herrin and in the Herrin Township High School. In 1928, he went to work in his father's bottling plant as a utility man, and from this humble start rose from one position of responsibility to another, learning every phase of the business, until upon his father's death in 1932 he assumed the general management. His mother became owner of the en-

terprise at that time. The plant, modern in every respect, employs eleven persons and serves one half of Williamson County. While Mr. Will has jurisdiction over every department and phase of the business, he gives most of his attention to the selling end, his favorite. An outstanding figure among fellow bottlers, he served on the board of directors of the Illinois State Bottlers Association for two years. In addition to this industry, he is active in farming. He is associated in the ownership and operation of a 212-acre farm in Jackson County.

On January 4, 1933, Mr. Will married Margaret Poliskie, the daughter of Mike and Ann Poliskie, who have resided in Williamson County since 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Will are the parents of three children—Marianne, born on July 24, 1935, Albert John, born on June 17, 1937, and Bonnie Jane Will, born on August 29, 1946. The entire family worships in St. Mary's Catholic Church of Herrin, in which Mr. Will is a trustee. He was also grand knight of the Knights of Columbus for two years and continues in his leadership and influence in this organization, as well as the church. Active also in civic affairs, Mr. Will serves as director of the Herrin Chamber of Commerce, an office to which he was first elected in 1944. His other organizations are the Herrin Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; Herrin Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and Southern Illinois, Inc. He is a former member of both the Rotary and Lions Clubs of Herrin. Bottling, farming, church and other civic work are the channels through which Mr. Will is serving a large segment of Southern Illinois.

HON. GROVER CLEVELAND HELM

There is hardly one phase of life in Illinois which has not felt the influence of the Honorable Grover Cleveland Helm of Bloomington. For Mr. Helm is a bank president, the owner of a wholesale produce house, part owner of an auto hotel, farmer and public official. In the financial world he is president of both First National Bank of Mackinaw, in Tazewell County, and of the National Bank of Bloomington. Through his activities he has established himself among the more valuable citizens of his native Illinois.

Mr. Helm was born at Streator, LaSalle County, on November 2, 1884. His parents, now deceased, were Alexander Helm, a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, who was at first in the coal mining business in Illinois, later in construction work, and Marguerite (Rankin)

Helm, also born at Edinburgh. Grover C. Helm was educated in the primary and high schools of Pontiac, Livingston County. For a time he worked in the construction business for his father. Later he was superintendent of commissioners of the Spring Lake Levee and Drainage District. In 1908 he moved to Mackinaw, where he purchased a general store from relative, C. G. Sparks, now deceased. Mr. Helm operated this store alone until 1918 and with a manager, J. E. Argo, until 1946, when he sold out. In 1910 he became president of the First National Bank of Mackinaw, the office he still holds. In 1912 he served as Mayor of Mackinaw. In 1918 he moved to Bloomington, where for eighteen months he was general manager of B. F. Hoopes and Son. In 1919 he organized Grover C. Helm and Company, wholesale produce house, which he still owns. In 1925, he bought out Henry A. Reece, a business operating under the corporate name of V. B. Robison and Company. In 1924 Mr. Helm became a director of the Peoples Bank of Bloomington, later serving as vice-president until 1934. When The National Bank of Bloomington was organized, he was elected president, and still serves in that capacity. In 1937 he became a director and part-owner of the Auto Hotel in Bloomington. In addition, he owns and operates one thousand acres of farm land. At the time he became president of the Mackinaw Bank, in 1910, Mr. Helm was the youngest national bank president in Illinois. He was then twenty-five years old.

He married Anna Puterbaugh of Mackinaw, daughter of Howell Jacob and Henrietta (Lomison) Puterbaugh. Mr. Puterbaugh was an extensive landowner and chairman of the Spring Lake Levee and Drainage District commissioners. Mrs. Helm was educated in the elementary and high schools of Mackinaw and at the National Park Seminary in Forest Glen, Maryland. Mr. and Mrs. Helm have two foster daughters—Gladys E., born on October 12, 1903, now the wife of Elmer Enderle, who is associated with Union Auto Indemnity Association and also manages the farms of L. F. Shepard of that organization; and Helen F., born May 17, 1902, now the wife of Harry Falkingham, division sales manager for Eureka Williams Corporation of Bloomington. The Helm home is at 2014 East Taylor Street, Bloomington. Mr. and Mrs. Helm are members of the Second Christian Church, Bloomington.

Mr. Helm is a trustee of Illinois Wesleyan University and a member of the Bloomington

City Planning Board and the Illinois State Housing Authority. In 1944, he was on the research committee of the American Bankers Association. He also belongs to the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and the Union League Club of Chicago. In World War I, he served under Herbert Hoover in the Food Administration and in World War II was Illinois State vice-chairman in the sale of War bonds. Farming is his hobby. One of the state's noteworthy citizens, Mr. Helm has made an outstanding contribution to development and prosperity.

ROBERT DANIEL BILLS

In Central Illinois a popular brand of bread is "Sally Ann." This is produced and distributed by the O'Connor-Bills Baking Company of Mattoon—a firm owned by Robert Daniel Bills and Mrs. None O'Connor, and managed by Mr. Bills and his son, Robert Daniel Bills, Jr., a World War II veteran. Both father and son are prominent in the baking industry and in the civic and public affairs of Mattoon. In 1949, for example, the elder Mr. Bills, who is former Mayor of the city and a one-time commissioner of public improvements, was president of the Mattoon Association of Commerce as well as a former president of the Bakers Association of Illinois. The younger Mr. Bills was at the same time an official of the bakers' association and of the Rotary Club of Mattoon.

Robert Daniel Bills, Sr., was born at Strasburg, Shelby County, on September 19, 1891, the son of John Charles and Amelia Henrietta (Peters) Bills, the latter of German parentage though her own birthplace and birth year are unknown. John C. Bills was born in Hutton Township, Coles County, and worked in various departments of the New York Central Railroad.

Robert D. Bills, Sr., began his education in a Lutheran parochial school in Stewardson, Illinois, and later also attended the public schools of Mattoon. His first job was with A. D. King, nursery man of Mattoon. At sixteen he became a delivery boy for Klorr Brothers and, next, he was employed by the late D. J. O'Conner as a grocery clerk. In 1916, Mr. Bills formed his partnership with Mr. O'Connor, establishing the bakery business which is one of the largest in Central Illinois. "Sally Ann" bread and other of the products are delivered into an area in a radius of fifty miles of Mattoon. The bakery employs fifty persons. Mr. Bills' name has



ROBERT DANIEL BILLS



ROBERT D. BILLS, JR.

traveled even farther than his bakery products.

On April 4, 1915, at Charleston, Mr. Bills married Jessie L. Anderson, daughter of David and Sarah Anderson of that city. Mrs. Bills has been active, outside her home, in Parent-Teacher Association work and in the Methodist Episcopal Church. There are three children—Betty Mae Bills, also associated with her father in the baking business; R. D. Bills, Jr., and Mrs. Jo Ann Bills Henderson. The senior Mr. and Mrs. Bills reside at 3232 Richmond Avenue, Mattoon.

Mr. Bills served the City of Mattoon as Mayor for one term and for six years was commissioner of public improvements. He is president of the Mattoon Federal Savings and Loan Association and is on the board of the Central National Bank of Mattoon. For two years he was president of the State bakers' association. Besides the Association of Commerce, he is also a member of the Rotary Club, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is one of the founders and is secretary of the Mattoon Broadcasting Company. He is a Republican and hunting and reading are his relaxations.

Mr. Bills' son and closest associate, Robert Daniel Bills, Jr., was born in Mattoon on May 18, 1920, and after being graduated from high school attended the University of Illinois for two years. He earned three letters in football and two in basketball at high school. At the university he played football in his freshman year but an injury prevented his participating on the varsity team. He was elected to Kappa Sigma.

Since 1936 Mr. Bills has been associated with his father in the bakery. Until 1940 he worked in the business only in the summer periods. From 1940 until the time he entered the military service in World War II, he developed the O'Connor-Bills house-to-house program. He entered the Army on July 28, 1942, and served until December 15, 1945, as a First Lieutenant in the Second Infantry Division. He received five Battle Stars and was decorated for bravery in Normandy.

Since 1945 Mr. Bills has managed the O'Connor-Bills bakery, leaving to his father such questions as policy changes and capital investments.

Robert Daniel Bills, Jr., and Marjorie Ann Montgomery, daughter of George M. and Helen E. Montgomery, were married at Wichita, Kansas, on February 1, 1941, and have be-

come the parents of Caro Anne Bills, born in 1942, and Paula Jayne Bills, born in 1944. Their home is at 1217 South Lawn Drive, Mattoon.

The younger Mr. Bills is also a Republican and he worships in the Episcopal Church at Mattoon. He is chairman of the executive committee of the Bakers Association of Illinois and secretary of the Rotary Club of Mattoon. He also belongs to the Chicago Bakers Club and the American Bakers Association. Mrs. Bills, Jr., who has done social work in Mattoon, is a member of Pi Beta Phi and Phi Delta Tau Sororities.

The entire family is prominent in Mattoon, to the progress of which they have long been contributing.

OKLEY HAYS

The career of Okley Hays of Herrin has taken him from one interesting vocation to another. He has been successively grocery clerk, farmer, grocery owner and banker. Today, he operates the Hays Chevrolet Company of Herrin, the Hays Loan Company and the Okley Hays Insurance Agency, the latter two also in Herrin. He is one of Williamson County's foremost citizens, an organization leader, a worker in Red Cross, bond and other drives and a man with an excellent World War II homefront record.

Born at West Frankfort, in Franklin County, on September 20, 1895, Okley Hays is the son of Mount and Minnie (Mannion) Hays, both also natives of Illinois. Okley Hays is the only child of his parents. He was educated in the elementary and high schools of West Frankfort, graduating from the twelfth grade in 1913. For two years he worked in a grocery store. For nine years after that he farmed. Then he moved into West Frankfort and bought a retail grocery store which he named Hays Groceries and which he operated for three years, or until 1927. At that time he accepted the post of cashier of the Union State Bank of West Frankfort. When it was merged in 1929 with the West Frankfort Bank and Trust Company, Mr. Hays became first vice-president. The depression proved too much for this institution, and in 1930 Mr. Hays found himself working in the collection department of the National Bank of the Republic in Chicago. On October 7, 1930, he resigned the Chicago position to return to West Frankfort as general manager of the Lane Chevrolet Company. In November, 1936, he established himself in Herrin, opening the Hays Chevrolet Company, of which he has

since been president and general manager. In 1941 he established the Hays Loan Company and the Okley Hays Insurance Agency, which operate both in conjunction with his automobile business and independently. The Chevrolet organization employs seventeen persons and maintains full shop facilities. Mr. Hays is active in the National Automobile Dealers and the Illinois Automobile Dealers Associations.

On October 20, 1915, Mr. Hays married Sylvia Baugh, the daughter of John and Mary Baugh of West Frankfort. Their children are—Helen, the wife of Dewey Frailey of Benton; Morris Henry, who married Evelyn Misker of Herrin and is the father of Morris Henry Hays, II, and William F. Hays; B. J. Hays, who married Gerry Berrey of Ziegler and is the father of J. O. Hays; and Edith Nell, the wife of Ray Elliott of Herrin. The family church is the Second Baptist of West Frankfort, in which Mr. Hays is a deacon.

In the World War II period Mr. Hays served as chairman of the scrap and salvage drives and as a member of the rationing board. He served on the West Frankfort High School Board for fifteen years, and for twelve years was its secretary. He is a director of the Herrin Chamber of Commerce and a past president of the Lions Club of Herrin. He is also active in Southern Illinois, Inc., the Century Club of Herrin and the Masonic order, in which he holds the third degree. He is a Republican. Civic work is his hobby, and through this hobby, as well as his businesses, he has been able to participate in the great program for promoting the development of Herrin, Williamson County and the entire Southern Illinois region.

GEORGE HAROLD ANDERSON

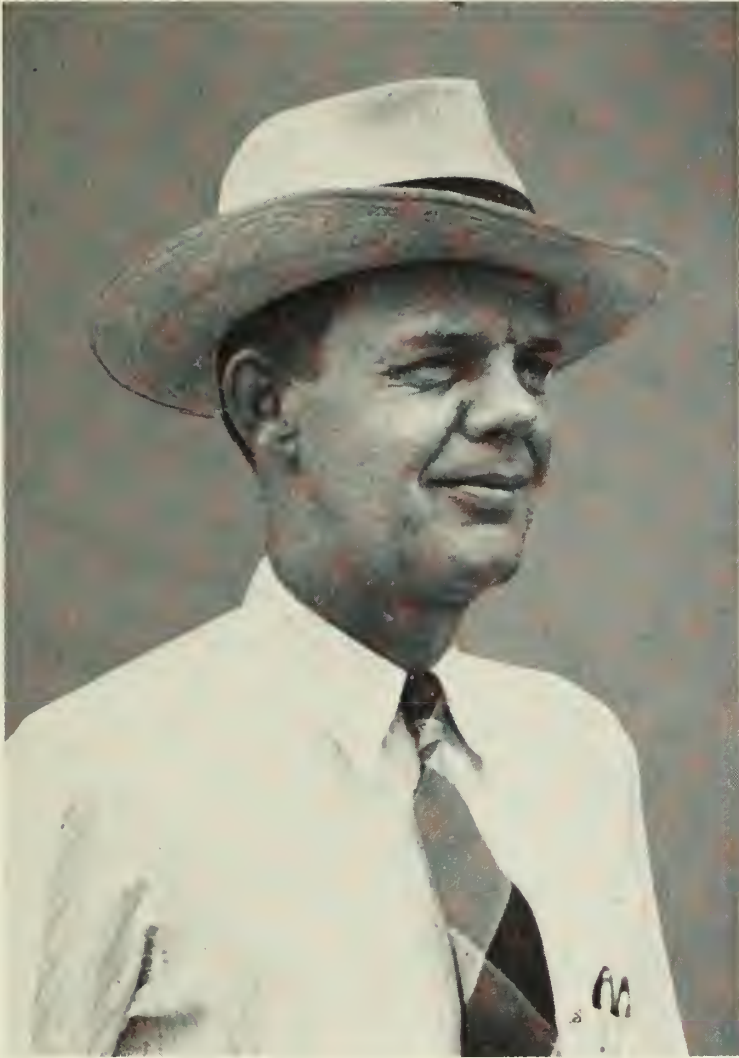
Former superintendent of highways for Williamson County and former member of the Illinois State Committee on Future Roads, George Harold Anderson of Herrin has developed a reputation as an engineer throughout Illinois and the surrounding region. He is a former president of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers and is currently president of the Herrin Township High School Board. Numerous public and private projects owe their existence to his planning and directorial skill.

Born in Chicago on May 14, 1898, Mr. Anderson is the son of Charles Anderson and Mary (Johnston) Anderson, natives of Sweden, both of whom came to the United States when still in their 'teens. The future engineer

went to grade school at Lake Forest, Illinois, and to high school at Highland Park, graduating from the latter in 1915. Then, for three and one-half years, he studied engineering at the University of Illinois. In 1918, he entered the United States Navy as an aviation cadet and was discharged in 1919. For two months after leaving the service Mr. Anderson served as assistant mining engineer for a coal company. In December, 1919, Mr. Anderson moved to Herrin to become engineer for the Big Muddy Coal and Iron Company. After two months with this firm, he formed an association with an engineering consulting firm. In October, 1920, Mr. Anderson joined in a partnership which did engineering work in the mining field. Since 1922, when the partnership was dissolved, he has operated independently in the engineering and construction business.

The year 1922 marks another important event in Mr. Anderson's life. On May 22, he married Inez Stotlar. On July 26, 1939, they became the parents of James Charles Anderson.

Since 1922 Mr. Anderson has built many hundreds of miles of highways, as well as bridges, sewerage plants, swimming pools and various other types of structures. From 1926 to 1933 he was county superintendent of highways and from 1931 to 1933, by appointment of Governor Emmerson, he served on the State Committee for Future Roads. Since 1946 Mr. Anderson has been in the general contracting business doing industrial and commercial building. In 1946, he was elected president of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers. He had served as vice-president in 1945 and in 1943 and 1944 as a member of the board of directors. In 1943, he was exalted ruler of the Herrin Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. In 1949 Mr. Anderson was serving his third term as president of the Herrin Township High School Board. He built Herrin's new high school, charging no fee for his services. The high school cost the community three-quarters of a million dollars. Without his services it would have cost a million and a half. In addition to his engineering work, Mr. Anderson operates a 300-acre livestock and grain farm and also a cigarette vending machine business which extends into seven counties. He is a member of Southern Illinois, Inc., the American Legion and the Williamson County Farm Bureau. Also, he holds the thirty-second degree in the Mississippi Valley Consistory, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.



GEORGE HAROLD ANDERSON

His fraternity is Alpha Sigma Phi. He is a Presbyterian and a Republican. Motor boating on Crab Orchard Lake is his favorite sport. He is also a fisherman. To become an engineer was Mr. Anderson's childhood ambition. In the achievement of his ambition he has served Southern Illinois especially well, indeed the entire State.

KENNETH ANNIN GREEN, LL.B.

A former Assistant State's Attorney of Coles County and active in all types of community programs, including work on behalf of youth, recreation, health and welfare and education, Kenneth Annin Green of Mattoon is an attorney of high standing in Central Illinois. He is well known in civic and fraternal organizations and in church work.

Born at Gays, Illinois, on October 15, 1912, Kenneth Annin Green is the son of George W. and Viola (Annin) Green. His father, a native of the area near Shelbyville, Illinois, is an interior decorator. The mother, also a native of Illinois, is the daughter of Henry and Mahala Annin.

The future attorney was graduated from the Mattoon High School and then entered Eastern Illinois State College at Charleston, where he remained three years. To prepare for the legal profession he went to the Chicago Kent College of Law in Chicago, from which he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1941.

Admitted to the Illinois State Bar on June 10, 1941, Mr. Green commenced his practice as an associate of William Kenneth Kidwell (q. v.), then State's Attorney of Coles County. The following year Mr. Green was appointed Assistant State's Attorney of the same county and held office until the summer of 1944, or nearly three years. At that time he resigned to devote his entire time to private practice. On November 1, 1945, Mr. Green established his own law office at 1624½ Broadway, Mattoon, and he has continued there since. He is engaged in a general practice of law.

On August 1, 1936, Mr. Green married Patricia Harper, the daughter of Wilmer J. and Amelia Harper. The ceremony took place at Waukegan, Illinois. Mrs. Green is active in the Assembly of God Church in Mattoon. She has directed religious activities and programs and been a Sunday School teacher.

Mr. Green is also active in this church. For three years he was a member of its board of trustees. Mr. and Mrs. Green are the parents

of two sons—Scott Franklin Green, who was born on May 24, 1938, and Timothy Harper Green, who was born on February 25, 1945. The Green family resides at 1212 Lafayette Avenue, Mattoon.

Outside the church and the legal profession, Mr. Green is active as a member of the Mattoon Recreation Board and the Mattoon Girl Scout Council and as president of the Community Health Council of the Consolidated School Districts of Coles and Cumberland Counties. He is a former president of the Lions Club of Mattoon and is also a member of the Past Presidents' Club of the Lions Club; the Mattoon Lodge, Knights of Pythias and Mattoon Lodge, D. O. K. K. In politics he is a Democrat.

Mr. Green has won the respect of citizens in all walks of life at Mattoon and in Coles County in general through his many activities of public service.

JOHN THOMAS THATCHER

The fame of John Thomas Thatcher of Mount Vernon is many-dimensional in the baking industry. He is not only the president of the Master Baking Company of Mount Vernon and of the Cape Girardeau Baking Company in nearby Missouri and a leader in industry organizations, but is known for the work he has done in labor relations in the state's baking industry and in establishing permanent labor-management peace. His prominence extends into the field of Masonry.

Born in Indianapolis on March 29, 1907, Mr. Thatcher is the son of John T. and Eva (Hitchcock) Thatcher. His father, also a native of the Indiana metropolis and the owner and operator of a dairy, died in 1909 at the age of thirty-three. Eva Thatcher's family came to Illinois from France. Her grandfather, who had been a Catholic priest, left the church, married and migrated to the United States. He settled at Indianapolis, where he engaged in the sawmill and planing mill business. The baking leader's paternal grandfather, Edward Thatcher, was a soldier in the Union Army and for years a leader in the Grand Army of the Republic. He gave his sword to his grandson, who treasures it today.

Mr. Thatcher grew up in Indianapolis and attended that city's elementary and high schools. When he left school he worked as a sign painter for two years. Then took a correspondence course in accounting. In 1928 he became an accountant for the Continental

Baking Company of Indianapolis. By the time he left in 1933 he had advanced to chief clerk. In 1933 he went to Mount Vernon as assistant general manager of the Davidson Biscuit Company. In 1936 this concern merged with the Hampton Cracker Company of Louisville and the Thinshell Candy Company of Chicago, the new enterprise being named the Consolidated Biscuit Company. All three original products, biscuits, candy and general bakestuffs, were retained. Mr. Thatcher was made assistant secretary of the new company. In 1937, however, the cracker plant was destroyed and until 1938 Mr. Thatcher was in charge of all the other operations. In that year he left Consolidated to organize the Master Baking Company, a purely Mount Vernon concern with nothing but local capital, and he was made its president. This concern manufactures bread that is shipped into an area within a radius of fifty miles of Mount Vernon. It employs about eighty persons. In 1944, the Master Baking Company bought the Bauer Baking Company of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and changed its name to the Cape Girardeau Baking Company.

In 1932 Mr. Thatcher married Jean Schad of Indianapolis and they have two children—Nancy, born July 8, 1936, and Barbara, born January 10, 1940. The family worships in Trinity Episcopal Church, Mount Vernon.

Mr. Thatcher served as secretary of the Southern Illinois Bakers Association several years. He continues influential in that organization, as well as in the Illinois State Bakers Association, the American Bakers Association and the Chicago Bakers Club. He is one of five men on the Illinois Bakers Committee that has negotiated and effected a statewide industry contract with the Bakers and Confectionery Workers' Union for a five-year period. This is the only agreement of its kind in the nation, and is hailed as a forward step in labor relations. The agreements cover all of Illinois except Peoria, East St. Louis and Chicago. Outside the baking world, Mr. Thatcher is active in Mount Vernon Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and, the holder of the thirty-second Masonic degree, is a Noble in Ainald Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, in East St. Louis. Also he belongs to the Union Commercial Travelers and the Missouri Athletic Club. He is secretary of the Green Hills Country Club. He is one of Illinois' foremost men.

FRANKLIN WALDO ROTH

Famed throughout the United States is the "Corn Belt" brand of egg and broiler chicks—products of the Corn Belt Hatcheries at Kankakee. Founded by the father of Franklin Waldo Roth, this firm has been operated for years by the family, who have developed it into national fame and with a volume of business requiring sixteen branches, all located in Illinois. Such is the reputation of this business that it was written up in "Time" Magazine in 1949. Mr. Roth is also the operator of the Corn Belt Frozen Food Locker Plant in Kankakee and the Corn Belt Implement Company at Watseka and Gilman, in Iroquois County, and Momence, in Kankakee County, and the Aer-Auto Insurance Exchange in Kankakee, as well as a feed mill at Gibson City, Ford County, and oil leases in Michigan. He is active and prominent in Kankakee's civic affairs.

Mr. Roth was born at Gibson City on March 9, 1902. His father, Daniel K. Roth, also a native of Illinois, is a prominent farmer and cattleman. He founded the Corn Belt Hatcheries in 1923 and was also an implement dealer and importer of Belgian horses. Franklin Roth's mother is Leanna (Mosiman) Roth, born at Middletown, Ohio. Franklin Roth was graduated from the high school at Gibson City and then spent two years at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio. In 1925 he took the degree of Bachelor of Science at the University of Illinois. He was prominent in athletics at the university, where he majored in subjects leading to a coaching career. He gave up the idea of coaching after graduation, having become interested in his father's chick hatchery. He joined the elder Mr. Roth in the business at Kankakee and in the first year opened two new hatcheries at Mattoon, Coles County, and Watseka. The following year a hatchery branch was established at Paxton, in Ford County; in the third year another branch was opened in Kankakee, and in the fourth another at Joliet. Now there are sixteen branches altogether, and in the season of 1948-49 Corn Belt Hatcheries produced more than 9,000,000 chicks. The frozen food locker plant was established in 1939 and the Corn Belt Implement Company, handling John Deere equipment, in 1942. In 1946, the Aer-Auto Insurance Exchange, issuing plane and auto insurance, was founded, with Mr Roth as president. This firm started small, but is now growing and prosperous, with twelve employees. The Gibson City feed mill owned



FRANKLIN WALDO ROTH

by the Roth's provides feed for his hatcheries as well as individual consumers.

Mr. Roth married Ruth Josephine Funk, who was born in Bloomington on August 18, 1905. The marriage occurred at Shirley, on June 14, 1926. Mr. and Mrs. Roth have three children—Franklin Waldo Roth, Jr., born in 1928, now (1949) at the University of Illinois; Barbara Roth, born in 1929, educated at Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, and Eugene Roth, born in 1930, now at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Mr. Roth is one of Kankakee's outstanding citizens. He is chairman of the Kankakee Community Chest and is director of the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce. He has served Rotary in Kankakee as president and the Kankakee Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, as exalted ruler. His activities are a major contribution to his State and nation.

HARRY INGALLS HANNAH, A.B., J.D.

A member of the Illinois State Bar since 1915, Harry Ingalls Hannah of Mattoon is an outstanding figure in that profession. A general practitioner who has been specializing to some extent in municipal and special improvement work, he is Attorney for the Coles County Airport Authority and is former City Attorney and Corporation Counsel of the City of Mattoon and former Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois. A veteran of World War I, he is one of the leaders of the American Legion in his district and he is also a noteworthy Republican.

Born in the Village of Fithian, Vermilion County, on June 12, 1890, Mr. Hannah is the son of John F. and Emma J. (Donaldson) Hannah. His father, a farmer and skilled wood craftsman, was born at Fithian on April 28, 1861, the son of Jeremiah Thomas and Margaret (McCray) Hannah, natives of Warren County, Ohio. Jeremiah Thomas Hannah served as a Union soldier in Company I, 125th Illinois Volunteers, in the Civil War. The attorney's mother was born on April 6, 1863, near Fithian, and was the daughter of Samuel and Maria Antoinette (White) Donaldson. Her father, born at Staunton, Virginia, on November 20, 1829, migrated to Indiana in covered wagons in 1854 and to Illinois in 1858. Her mother, daughter of Calvin G. White of Vermont, was born in Rome, Michigan, on June 4, 1836.

Harry Ingalls Hannah began his education in county schools and went on to the Urbana

High School. In 1913, he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts and in 1915 that of Jurum Doctor from the University of Illinois. He began the practice of law in Mattoon in 1915, in the office of Bryan H. Tiven. In 1921 he opened his own office. In 1923 he became City Attorney and Corporation Counsel for the City of Mattoon, holding these offices for more than ten years. From 1925 to 1933 he served as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois. In his public and his private practice Mr. Hannah has gained a reputation as an outstanding trial lawyer in both civil and criminal matters in State and Federal Courts. He has practiced before all the Appellate Courts and the Supreme Court of the State and the Federal District Courts and the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Illinois, and is also admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He has been Attorney for the Coles County Airport Authority since 1946.

On June 29, 1917, at Ashley, Illinois, Mr. Hannah married Vivian Britton, the daughter of the Reverend Joseph Walter and Lucretia (Morgan) Britton. Mrs. Hannah, educated at McKendree College, Lebanon, Illinois, an accomplished musician and vocalist, is a former high school teacher of foreign languages. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and with her husband worships in the Central Community Church, Mattoon. Mrs. Hannah's mother was a descendant of the Thrall family of English ancestry and of early American Colonial stock, her great-great-grandfather, Captain Samuel Thrall, having served with the rank of Captain in the Revolutionary War. Mr. and Mrs. Hannah are the parents of three children—Norman Britton Hannah, born on December 1, 1919; Marilyn Vivian, born on May 6, 1925, now married to Kenneth Crocker and residing at Evanston; and David Morgan Hannah, born on May 30, 1931, now (1949) a student at The Hill School, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Hannah's older son, Norman, holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts from the University of Illinois, of Master of Arts from the Louisiana State University and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Minnesota. In World War II, he held the Naval rank of Lieutenant, serving in the Pacific area. For six months he was liaison officer between the British and the United States Navy. He married Edna McCoy of New Orleans. He is now a member of the United

States Foreign Service, under the State Department, and is at present a secretary of the embassy at Bangkok, Siam. He served eighteen months previously as vice consul in Shanghai, China. The attorney's daughter, Mrs. Crocker, was educated at the University of Illinois and Sweet Briar, Virginia. At the university she majored in music. Later she studied at Julliard in New York. An accomplished vocalist, she has taken prominent parts in operatic performances. She is the mother of Camilla Lynn Crocker.

Harry Hannah, who served in Officer's Training School in the Field Artillery at Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky, in World War I, has twice been commander of the Mattoon Post of the American Legion and has also served as judge-advocate for the Legion's 19th district. He is a member of the Illinois State and the American Bar Associations, the Knights of Pythias and the Masonic order. Prominent in the Republican Party, he was its nominee for State Senator from the 34th District in 1936. Golf is his favorite sport, photography his hobby.

He is truly one of Illinois' notables.

MARTIN J. O'BRIEN

A name familiar to furniture men throughout the Middle West is that of Martin J. O'Brien of Kankakee, a farm boy who began his career in the furniture trade after he left school and who has risen to the presidency and general managership of a great firm. Mr. O'Brien holds these posts, as well as a directorship, in the Turk Furniture and Manufacturing Company of Kankakee. This concern makes furniture and sells it at retail. Mr. O'Brien, who is also an officer of the Turk Pontiac Furniture Company of Pontiac, Illinois, is a leading figure in all phases of civic life, and has held various public offices. He has made an especially outstanding record as chairman of the Kankakee Community Chest campaigns for funds.

Born in Stockland, Illinois, on March 3, 1907, Mr. O'Brien is the son of John and Katherine (Hardiman) O'Brien. His father, also a native of Illinois and the son of a couple also born in this State, was born in 1876; he is a retired farmer. The mother, who was a native of Ireland, died in 1940. Martin O'Brien is the youngest of three children, the others being Vincent and Howard O'Brien.

He went to the elementary and high schools of Stockland and completed his education in the Gallagher School of Business at

Kankakee. When he left school he became associated with what was then called the Oberlin Furniture Company, operating a retail store in Kankakee, as credit manager. The firm sold out to the Turk Furniture and Manufacturing Company in 1934, but Mr. O'Brien reopened the store under the Turk name and was retail manager until he was elected president and general manager. He is also on the board of the company and is treasurer of the Turk Pontiac Furniture Company, a large retail furniture company at Pontiac, Illinois. In addition Mr. O'Brien owns a farm in adjoining Iroquois County.

Mr. O'Brien's wife is the daughter of the founder of the Oberlin Furniture Company, Arthur J. Oberlin, and of Nancy (O'Connor) Oberlin. Her name is Bernice Oberlin and she was born in Kankakee on August 2, 1906. A graduate of Kankakee High School, Mrs. O'Brien spent three years at the University of Illinois. The marriage was solemnized on September 26, 1935, in Kankakee, and there are now three children—John Arthur O'Brien, born on December 20, 1936; Thomas Martin O'Brien, born on November 24, 1940, and Patricia Lynn O'Brien, born on March 31, 1947.

Mr. O'Brien's activities are varied and extensive. He is a director of the Illinois Retail Furniture Association, the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce and the Kankakee Credit Bureau. He has not only been active in the Community Chest fund-raising campaigns but also in the March of Dimes campaign in Kankakee County. As chest chairman, he raised more money for the local welfare and health and youth-serving agencies than ever before or since. Among his other activities have been service on the City Park Commission and on the committee appointed to purchase new fire equipment for Kankakee. He was especially active in the campaign to obtain such new equipment. He is also active in the Knights of Columbus and the Kankakee Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and is prominent in the Catholic Church. He ranks high among the city's most valuable citizens and is rated one of the builders of Illinois' furniture industry.

HONORABLE ALBERT FREDERICK HATTENBURG

The Honorable Albert Frederick Hattenburg is not only one of Kankakee's best educated citizens—an education in medicine, pharmacy and the humanities, in universities here and abroad, was his—but he is certain-

This space reserved for the portrait of Martin J. O'Brien

ly also Kankakee's leading citizen. For, after a career as City Clerk, he has held office as Mayor since 1937. Among his other public services was his work as State Druggist of Illinois. He is the owner and operator of the Hattenburg Drug Store in Kankakee and one of those who, in public office or not, has helped develop the city commercially, industrially and culturally.

Mayor Hattenburg was born in the Village of Clifton, Iroquois County, on February 10, 1896, the son of Henry N. and Margaret J. (Mayo) Hattenburg. His father, a blacksmith, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in February, 1869. The mother, a school teacher, was also born in Iroquois County. The future Kankakee Mayor went through high school in his native Clifton and in 1917 was graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana, with the degree of Graduate in Pharmacy. He had not only studied pharmacy but had taken two years of medicine. By the time he took his degree the United States had entered the First World War. He went into the Army immediately (1917) and served a year and one-half in France. In his last three months in France, which was after the Armistice, Mayor Hattenburg attended Beaune University in France. He studied pharmacy and some medicine. Following his discharge from the service in 1919, he returned to Illinois and began his professional career in the Illinois Central Pharmacy at Kankakee. He remained there fifteen months and then spent ten months as Illinois State Druggist. At the end of the latter period he formed a partnership which operated the E. and R. Pharmacy in Kankakee. Selling out his interest in this enterprise in 1927, Mayor Hattenburg then worked for two years as prescription pharmacist with the Central Pharmacy in Kankakee. In 1929, he established, at his present location, the eminently successful Hattenburg Drug Store.

On December 28, 1921, Mayor Hattenburg married Ann H. Gallagher in Kankakee. Mrs. Hattenburg, born in Boston on July 24, 1895, was taken to Kankakee by her parents when she was a young child. She and the Mayor have three children—Frances, born in 1923, who attended the University of Illinois and is now Mrs. Richard Hargitt; Rita Katherine, born in 1925, who was a nurse in World War II, and Albert I., born in 1928, who completed his education at the University of California.

From his earliest days in Kankakee, Mayor Hattenburg has devoted himself to civic affairs. In 1935 he was elected City Clerk. He held this office until 1937, and since that

year has been Mayor. He has given such leadership to movements, joined in by the Chamber of Commerce and other civic groups, that many diversified industries, some of them producing nationally advertised products, have been induced to establish themselves in Kankakee. His administration has also brought considerable progress to the community. Mayor Hattenburg is active in the American Legion and its 40 and 8, in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Cooties, the Knights of Columbus, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Kankakee Country Club, the Shorer Country Club, the Sportsman's Club, the Northwoods Club, the Kankakee Skeet Club and, of course, the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce. He has become a beloved figure in the Kankakee area.

WALTER ROWATT, JR.

The son of a poor coal miner, Walter Rowatt, Jr., of Carterville in Williamson County did not get very far at school, having been obliged to go to work at the age of twelve. Nevertheless, his industry, ability and personality have carried him far, for since the early 1930's he has been president of the Bank of Carterville. He is now also chairman of the board. Prominent among the state's bankers, he is one of Williamson County's most influential bankers and citizens.

Mr. Rowatt was born in Carterville on April 5, 1877, the son of Walter and Mary Ann (Jackson) Rowatt. His father, who came to the United States at the age of eighteen, first lived in Pennsylvania. Then he crossed the country to Murphysboro, in Jackson County, and in 1872 he established himself in Carterville. All through the years he worked as a coal miner. The banker's mother was a native of Jackson County. Eight children were born to the senior Mr. and Mrs. Rowatt, and their son Walter, Jr., was the third of these. When he completed the fourth reader in the Carterville schools, Mr. Rowatt dropped all schooling and went to work to help maintain the family. His first job was in a brick yard, where he did unskilled labor of every description. Then he worked in a saw mill, where he was assigned to grinding corn. In 1892, when he was fifteen years old, Mr. Rowatt was given the job of delivery boy in the Carterville grocery store of J. V. Walker. For this task he had a wagon. Financial difficulties had taught him thrift and with his savings he was able, eventually, to buy shares in the Carterville Building and Loan Association. With his funds he was able to become a partner in

a general store operation, and later was vice-president and treasurer of the Carterville Store Company, Inc. Subsequently, he was manager of the grocery department of Ellis Brothers Department Store in Carterville, where in 1917 he became manager of the credit and collection department. Still later, he was promoted to general manager and elected secretary and treasurer of the department store company, but resigned in 1930. Soon afterward, he was elected president of the Bank of Carterville, of which he is now both president and board chairman.

In 1899 Mr. Rowatt married Eleanor Lipsey and three children were born to them—Mrs. Ruth Craig; Paul Rowatt, now of Chicago; and Mrs. Nell Hudgens, now of Carbonale.

Mr. Rowatt, a Republican, is active in the Illinois Bankers Association and the Lions Club of Carterville. Travel is his hobby. As the record indicates, he has made an exceptional contribution to the prosperity and development of his native city and county.

WILLIAM KENNETH KIDWELL

An attorney with a State-wide reputation in his profession as well as among the lay public, William Kenneth Kidwell is also noted for his activities on behalf of boys and in the field of crime prevention. Once in practice in Chicago, he has been at Mattoon, his birthplace, since 1938. He has served that city as City Collector and also been State's Attorney for Coles County and he has held some of the highest offices in the state's legal organizations.

William Kenneth Kidwell was born at Mattoon on August 8, 1900, the son of John Ashbury and Luella May (Hearn) Kidwell. His father, born in Clark County in 1859, died in 1936. He was a salesman. In 1872, at the age of thirteen, John A. Kidwell drove his widowed mother, paternal grandmother, two younger sisters and a younger brother in a covered wagon from Coles County to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, and homesteaded 160 acres of land. The lawyer's mother, born in 1864 in Okaw Township, Coles County, the daughter of Eliza and Mary Hearn, died in 1938.

William K. Kidwell first attended Mattoon's public schools. After graduating from high school, he spent two years at the Illinois Wesleyan University School of Law at Bloomington and for four years after that served an apprenticeship as a law clerk in the law of-

fices of Craig and Kinzel, Mattoon. In his school days Mr. Kidwell played football and baseball and in his freshman year at Illinois Wesleyan was elected president of Phi Delta Phi, the legal fraternity. In 1930, he was admitted to the bar of the State of Illinois. Until 1938, he conducted the law department of the Employers' Group in Chicago. Since then he has been in the general practice of law at Mattoon.

Mr. Kidwell married Mary Helen Spitz, daughter of Frank X. and Clara Spitz, at Mattoon on November 28, 1942. Mrs. Kidwell is former president and secretary-treasurer, Woman's Entertainment Committee, Mattoon Golf and Country Club, and is a former member of the executive board of the Mattoon United Service Organizations (USO) and former president and secretary of the Mattoon Blue Ribbon Bowling League. She is a qualified ambulance driver of the Mobile Ambulance Unit of the American Red Cross, and was active in the Mattoon Chapter from 1942 to 1946. She is also active in the Altar Society and Daughters of Isabella, Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mattoon. The Kidwell home is at 1403 Charleston Avenue, Mattoon.

Mr. Kidwell's own religious affiliation is with the Trinity Episcopal Church of Mattoon where he is senior warden of the vestry. From 1943 to 1949 he was chairman of the finance committee, Wabash District, Lincoln Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America, and he is now serving as president of that council. In his work for youth he is also a member of the executive board, Junior Police Association of Mattoon, and chairman of the Youth Service Committee of the Kiwanis Club of Mattoon. He served as City Collector of Mattoon from 1925 to 1927 and as State's Attorney for Coles County from December, 1940, to December, 1948. From 1942 to 1946 he was on the advisory board, Selective Service Board No. 2, Coles County. In the year 1947-1948, he was chairman of the membership committee of the Illinois State Bar Association and concurrently secretary-treasurer of the Illinois State's Attorneys Association. The following year he was elected president of the State's Attorneys organization. He is also vice-president of the Coles County Bar Association; a member of Mattoon Lodge, No. 495, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of which he was exalted ruler in 1939-1940; Knights of Pythias; Dramatic Order of Khorassan; Loyal Order of Moose, and Mattoon Golf and Country Club. He was with Company



WILLIAM KENNETH KIDWELL

L, 5th Infantry, Illinois Reserve Militia, from 1942-1945. He is continuing to serve his community and State in every possible way.

WILLIAM SPARGO GILES

Though he was obliged to go to work in the coal mines at puny wages when he was twelve years old, and though he was born on a Friday the Thirteenth, William Spargo Giles of Marion has managed, through application of those qualities which produce "luck" for any man who has them, to become a successful and influential citizen. He is not only president of the Giles Armature and Electric Works of Marion but also vice-president of the Sandner Electrical Company, Inc., of West Frankfort, and treasurer of the Missouri Electric Works, Inc., of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He has an international reputation in his field and is one of the City of Marion's outstanding citizens.

Mr. Giles was born at Hazleton, Pennsylvania, on March 13, 1896, the son of Arthur Edwin and Lilly Ida (Spargo) Giles, both also born in Pennsylvania. William Giles attended elementary school and two years of high school at Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He finished high school in Hazleton in 1916 and then studied electrical engineering at Lafayette College at Easton, Pennsylvania. He was in the Glee Club and Dramatic Club though he worked part of his way through college.

When he was twelve Mr. Giles had gone to work on week-ends and holidays in coal mines, spending ten hours a day in the pits, receiving nine cents an hour. He had to walk three miles to work, and three miles to home again. Later on, he worked for various mines, including the Peabody Coal Company and the Cosgrove Mining Company, as electrician and electrical engineer. From 1923 to 1929 he was electrical superintendent for an engineering firm at Louisville, Kentucky, and in this period worked on the hydroelectric plant and dam there. In 1931 Mr. Giles returned to Marion and in February of that year started the Giles Electrical Shop in the basement of his home, and there did repair work on motors. In October, 1932, his brother John joined him in the business and toward the end of that year they moved into a building in the southwestern part of Marion and organized the Giles Armature and Electric Works. In 1947, the firm was incorporated with William Giles as president. The firm, which began with one employee, now has forty employees. It specializes in mine electrical work, but also manufactures coils which it ships into all parts

of the United States. The plant is one of the most modern in Southern Illinois. It operates on a profit-sharing basis with its employees.

On April 12, 1919, Mr. Giles married Frances Megowan, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Megowan of Louisville. They are the parents of Jean V., born March 22, 1920, who is the wife of Charles Eugene Vickery and the mother of William and Frances Kay Vickery; Martha Jean, born April 8, 1922, the wife of Harold Lundemo and the mother of Sally Anne and Peggy Lundemo; and Betty Lea, born February 2, 1924, the wife of Garner J. Grassinger and the mother of Paula Jo and Robin Grassinger.

The family worships in the Baptist Church. Mr. Giles is past president of the National Industrial Service Association, which has members in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Cuba. He devotes a considerable part of his time to this office. He was president of the Rotary Club of Marion in 1940 and has a seventeen-year record for perfect attendance. He is serving (1950) his third term as a member of the Marion High School Board and is chairman of the re-employment committee of the draft board. He also belongs to the Masonic order, the Elks, the American Legion (having served in World War I from 1918 to 1919) and Southern Illinois, Inc. Mr. Giles is known for his interest in health and welfare. Among his good works has been assistance to twenty-eight employees in buying homes of their own.

WILLIS PIERCE RYAN, A.B., LL.B.

A distinguished and decorated veteran of World War II, Willis Pierce Ryan is now one of the outstanding members of the bar in Coles County. Member of the law firm of Ryan and Austin, he maintains his office at 1601 Broadway, in Mattoon, the largest city in the county. Formerly Assistant State's Attorney for Coles County, Mr. Ryan is currently serving as City Attorney of the City of Mattoon. He takes a leading part in the civic life of Mattoon and in various of its organizations.

Mr. Ryan was born in Peoria on December 11, 1911, the son of William F. and Marjorie Marvin (Pierce) Ryan. His father is a native of Delavan. His mother, born at Fitchburg, Massachusetts is the daughter of William H. and Nellie R. Pierce. Willis Pierce Ryan obtained his elementary education in the parochial schools of New Jersey. He was graduated from high school at Ocean Grove, New

Jersey, and in the year 1928-1929 was a student at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. In 1932, he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the University of Illinois, Urbana, and in 1935 the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Admitted to the bar in Illinois in 1935, Mr. Ryan served the next three years with the General Exchange Insurance Corporation. In 1938, he became a partner in the law firm of Kiger and Dilsaver of Mattoon. He was with this firm when on December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked at Pearl Harbor. Five months later, in May, 1942, he was commissioned an officer in the United States Troop Carrier Command, and he served as combat intelligence officer in Africa, Sicily, Italy, England, France, and Germany. His services were of such distinctive character as to win him the Air Medal and the French Government's Croix de Guerre. In April, 1946, he was separated from the active service with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. When he returned to Mattoon, Mr. Ryan joined Jack Austin (q. v.), prominent Mattoon attorney, in forming the present law firm of Ryan and Austin, and together the partners have developed the firm into one of great prominence in the region.

On November 14, 1942, Mr. Ryan's fiancée, Dorothy Racster, native of Mattoon and daughter of Charles and Olive Racster of Cisne, Illinois, joined him at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and there on that day they were married. They now have a daughter and son—Suzanne Ryan, who was born on December 4, 1943, and Stephen Racster Ryan, who was born on November 2, 1946. Mr. and Mrs. Ryan and their children reside at 408 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon. They are communicants of the Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Ryan began developing his reputation as lawyer and citizen in the pre-war days, and from 1938 to 1940 was Assistant State's Attorney for Coles County. Since 1946 he has been Mattoon's City Attorney. He serves on the boards of directors of the Mattoon Post of the American Legion and the Mattoon Association of Commerce. He is also active in the Coles County Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Lions Club of Mattoon, and the Mattoon Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Golf and swimming are his chief diversions. Through his various activities, public, civic and social, Willis Pierce Ryan has established himself as a foremost citizen of Coles County and Central Illinois.

PAUL FRANK BEICH

The story of the growth and success of the Paul F. Beich Co. of Bloomington is a summary of the personal history of the late Paul F. Beich, founder of the company.

Mr. Paul Frank Beich was born in Wehlau, Germany, the son of August and Huldah Vogelsang Beich May 22, 1864. He received his education at the Gymnasium at Culm. Coming to Bloomington, Illinois when he was seventeen years of age, he decided to make this his home. Having represented first Bruce & Brown of Bloomington, Illinois, then O. H. Peckham Company of St. Louis, Missouri, he formed a partnership, the Beich-Bruffe Candy Company at St. Louis, Missouri in the early summer of 1891.

In 1893, Mr. Beich established his own business, the Paul F. Beich Co., at Bloomington, Illinois. He was president until 1928, at which time he became chairman of the board, holding this position at the time of his passing, September 9, 1937.

Mr. Beich was for many years a director of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and later its president. He was a director of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, its president and represented the Bloomington Chamber as National Counselor in the National Chamber of Commerce for many years. Mr. Beich represented the U. S. Chamber on missions to Mexico and also in Europe. He was director, treasurer, vice-president, and later president of the National Confectioners' Association. Mr. Beich was one of the founders, director and vice-president of the American State Bank of Bloomington, Illinois, and a director in a number of other companies. During the first World War he was head of the Red Cross drives in McLean County and a member of the Brokaw Hospital Board and active in other civic and charitable organizations. He was a member of the B.P.O.E. and the Loyal Order of Moose, a thirty-second degree Mason, member of the Shrine, Scottish Rite, and Mozart Blue Lodge, Bloomington Club, Illinois Athletic Club, Union League Club, Bloomington Country Club. He was a member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, senior warden and vestryman. In politics Mr. Beich was a life-long member of the Republican party.

On September 4, 1889 he was united in marriage to Catherine Marie Gerken, born December 7, 1867 at Kenosha, Wisconsin, daughter of William Albert and Mary Stemm Gerken. The Gerken family moved from Kenosha, Wisconsin to Bloomington, Illinois in



PAUL FRANK BEICH



1871. Mrs. Beich passed away September 14, 1944. Mr. Beich's family consisted of two sons, who were associated with him in the business, Albert Charles Beich, born in Bloomington, Illinois on September 13, 1895, and who passed away September 30, 1948. He was graduated from the local grammar and high schools and attended Racine College. Albert Charles Beich joined his father's firm in 1914. He was manager of the firm's Chicago plant and was serving as vice-president and member of the board of directors at the time of his death. The other son, Otto Gerken Beich, was born in Bloomington, Illinois, December 21, 1892, and attended Bloomington schools and Racine College, a preparatory academy, and Illinois Wesleyan Law School, receiving his degree in 1915. In this same year, he joined his father's firm. Upon his father's becoming board chairman in 1928, he became president, which position he held until 1945, at which time he became chairman of the board. Both Albert Charles Beich and Otto Gerken Beich were vestrymen of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Paul M. Beich, son of Otto G. Beich, was also a vestryman of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, and William A. Beich, son of Otto G. Beich, is presently a vestryman in this church, three generations of the family having been represented in this vestry.

Albert C. Beich had the following children: Mrs. Elizabeth Beich White (wife of Dr. Raymond White), Mrs. Mary Beich Meyers (wife of Dr. Rudolph Meyers), Albert C. Beich, Jr., the playwright, and A. W. Beich, Mrs. Julie Beich Bay (wife of Mr. James Bay), and Frank Robert Beich. He was survived by his wife, Mrs. Julia Bell Beich, born at Boston, Massachusetts. Two children survive the marriage of Otto G. Beich to Harriet Kiser Beich, the daughter of Marion and Lydia Wilson Kiser of Woodstock, Illinois. They are Paul Marion Beich, president of the Paul F. Beich Co., and William August Beich, vice-president.

Otto G. Beich was a director of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, director of the Bloomington Association of Commerce and later its president, and national director of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Incorporated, served on the State of Illinois Teachers College Board, was a member of the advisory board of the University of Illinois, vice-president of the Father's Day Association at the University of Illinois, for two terms, and a member of the follow-

ing organizations: McLean Historical Society, Bloomington Country Club, the University Club of Chicago, the Lake Shore Club of Chicago, the German Club of Chicago, and a member of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity.

FRANK EUGENE MORRISON

Less than three decades ago, Frank Eugene Morrison of Marion, in association with his late brother, L. G. Morrison, went into the wholesale oil business. Today he heads a company which is the outgrowth of that early start, the Home Oil Company, an organization consisting of twenty-six separate and individual corporations and operating through many bulk plants and leased retail outlets throughout Southern Illinois and part of Kentucky. He is also a former president of Illinois Petroleum Marketers and at present a director in that organization and, in addition, is a farmer and stock raiser.

Mr. Morrison was born in Montgomery County on February 23, 1879, the son of William and Ella (Gale) Morrison. His father, a native of Scotland, and a live stock trader in Illinois for many years, died when the oil man was seven years old. The mother was born in Massachusetts. Mr. Morrison was educated in grade school in Shelby County and in high school at Arthur, in Douglas County. When he was seventeen he took his first job as a clerk in a store in Arthur. The following year he studied telegraphy and went to work as an operator for the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad. Later he became an agent and yardmaster. In 1901 he was transferred as yardmaster to Marion, and this post he held until 1922, when he resigned to join his brother in the wholesale oil business at Marion. Operating independently, their firm was known as Morrison Brothers. Today, the Home Oil Company, the direct descendent of Morrison Brothers, with its large operating territory, has 38 bulk plants and 350 retail outlets. It is a company doing a two million dollar annual business. It was among the first advocates of the distribution through filling stations of tires, tubes, batteries and accessories. Before he became a director, Mr. Morrison served two years as president of Illinois Petroleum Marketers.

Mr. Morrison married Classena Wilmer, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Wilmer of Oconee, Shelby County, in September, 1902. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Morrison—Eugene W. Morrison, a graduate of the University of Illinois, who is secretary

and treasurer of the Home Oil Company; Classena, deceased, and Mildred. Eugene W. Morrison, who is one of the prime executives in his father's business, is a civic leader at Marion. Among his community services has been seven years of work as president of the Marion board of education. He is married and the father of two children. He and his father belong to Southern Illinois, Inc., through which they participate in the great program of developing the region.

The elder Mr. Morrison operates a 1200-acre farm, on which he raises white-faced cattle. Farming and working with livestock are his hobbies. The contribution which this strongly religious Methodist family is making to Southern Illinois prosperity and welfare is widely recognized.

EVERETT FRANK KENT

From a small business established at Gridley, McLean County, in 1900, the Kent Lumber and Coal Company has grown to an extraordinarily large enterprise with head office in Bloomington and lumber and coal yards not only in that city but also at Mattoon, Minonk, Gridley, Flanagan, El Paso and Benson. In this huge enterprise Everett Frank Kent, son of the founder, is a partner, making his home and headquarters at Bloomington. He is also a partner in the West Side Coal and Lumber Company of Bloomington and the affiliated Champaign Builders Supply of Champaign. Mr. Kent is prominent in Bloomington's civic affairs, especially in the activities of the Bloomington Community Chest.

He was born in Gridley on June 4, 1894. His father, Edgar Francis Kent, now deceased, was also a native of Gridley. He founded the Kent Lumber and Coal Company at Gridley in 1900. The mother, also deceased, was Mary (Carson) Kent, another native of Gridley. Everett F. Kent was educated in the elementary and high schools of Gridley and Champaign. He was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1918, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Before he took his degree, however, he served with the armed forces in World War I. At first he was with the Ambulance Corps, but later he was a pilot in the Air Corps. He was discharged with the rank of Second Lieutenant on December 13, 1918. He then took his final semester at the University of Illinois.

When he left the university in 1919, Mr. Kent joined his father in the Kent Lumber and Coal Company at Gridley. He has been

active in the concern since that time and has helped build it into the great organization it has become. The firm does a general lumber and coal business, also dealing in building materials and doing a general building contracting business. It employs eighteen to twenty in the Bloomington home office and yards and about sixty in the yards in the six other communities. The Bloomington headquarters address is 1111 West Market Street.

Mr. Kent married Nellie Neher of Chenoa, McLean County, on June 21, 1924. Mrs. Kent is the daughter of William D. and Kitty Boulware) Neher. Her father, also born at Chenoa, is a retired photographer and a wood carver by avocation. Her mother is a native of McCune, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Kent have three children—Patricia Kent, born on June 14, 1925; Carolyn Kent, born on June 27, 1927, and Constance Kent, born on August 8, 1930. The family lives at 23 Country Club Place, Bloomington, and worships in the Second Presbyterian Church of Bloomington.

Mr. Kent is a director of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Rotary Club of Bloomington, the American Legion and the Bloomington Country Club. Golf is his favorite sport, travel his hobby. His contribution to the growth of a considerable portion of the state has been extraordinary.

RUBY WITTERS HOLT

The Mound City Furniture Store at Mount Vernon, a business with growing volume and prestige, has been an institution in Southern Illinois for years, largely through the progressive direction of first the late Leonard H. Holt and, since his death in 1947, his widow, Mrs. Ruby Witters Holt. Mrs. Holt is one of those women who take an active interest in all civic affairs, and thus she has not only been a business leader in her community but an influential worker in educational, health and welfare and other major civic programs.

Born Ruby Witters near Dahlgren, Hamilton County, on June 23, 1909, Mrs. Holt is the daughter of O. B. and Finis (Brummet) Witters. Her father, born in Hamilton County in 1885, was a farmer prominent in the Baptist Church and as a school board member. Her mother was born in Clay County in 1885; she was also an active church worker and was a member of the Royal Neighbor Lodge. Mrs. Holt's paternal grandfather, Ben F. Witters, born in Sumner, Lawrence County, moved to Hamilton County in 1870. He became a county supervisor and was also a leader in his



EVERETT FRANK KENT

church. The paternal grandmother, Martha (Anderson) Witters, of Scottish-Irish descent, was born in White County.

Mrs. Holt was educated in the elementary and high schools of Hamilton County and completed her high school education at Minier, in Tazewell County. She was a member of the debating team. Interested in her commercial studies at high school, Mrs. Holt went to Brown's Business College, Centralia, afterward. Then she became a member of the staff of the First National Bank of Dahlgren. In 1929, she was made assistant to the receiver for insolvent banks, under the Comptroller of the Currency of the United States, and this position she held six years.

On October 4, 1934, Mrs. Holt was married to Leonard H. Holt, a native of Paducah, Kentucky, who at the time of the marriage was a resident of Mount Vernon. Mr. Holt's first wife had died five days after giving birth to a daughter, Joyce Elizabeth, whose rearing was taken over temporarily by maternal grandparents living at Carbondale. Since the 1934 marriage, the daughter has been under the care and guidance first of Mr. and Mrs. Holt, then Mrs. Holt. To the 1934 marriage were born two children—one a son who died at birth; then a daughter, Rozan, born in 1939, and now (1950) attending elementary school in Mount Vernon. Joyce Elizabeth Holt attended Mount Vernon's public schools, then spent two years at Lindenwood College, St. Charles, Missouri. Afterward, she majored in sociology at Indiana University, Bloomington. At Lindenwood she was an honor student and received much recognition for her work.

Mr. Holt was born in Paducah on March 27, 1897. He was educated at Valparaiso University in Indiana and in World War I was with the Navy one year. He began his career as a barber, working at Marion, Illinois, two and one-half years. Then he was with H. W. Bracy, operator of a chain of groceries called Thrift Stores, eventually becoming a stockholder in these enterprises. He managed stores at Marion, Harrisburg and West Frankfort. In 1930 the Thrift Stores were purchased by the Kroger Grocery and Baking Company of Cincinnati, with a regional office at Carbondale. Mr. Holt was supervisor for thirty-two stores in Central Illinois until 1944. In the Spring of 1944 Mr. Holt's health failed. He resigned his position and in June of the same year bought the Mound City Furniture Store in Mount Vernon. This he managed until his death on January 29, 1947. He

was a Mason, an Elk and a member of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club of Mount Vernon. He had become one of that city's outstanding citizens, and his death is still mourned by a large part of the public. His parents were William F. and Edith (Wymer) Holt. His father, born in Tennessee, lived in Kentucky and finally Brookport, Massac County, Illinois, where he died in 1934. He was a barber. Mr. Holt's mother, who died in 1948, was a native of Massac County whose parents came from England.

Immediately on her husband's death, Mrs. Holt took over the management of the Mound City Furniture Store and it has continued to grow and prosper under her guidance. She has achieved such distinction in the community as to be elected president of the Mount Vernon Business and Professional Women's Club and to the board of directors of the King City Retailers Association. She is also a director of the Jefferson County Tuberculosis Sanatorium and is a former president of the Parent-Teachers Association. She is, in addition, active in the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce. Reading and the growing of roses are her hobbies. Her business address is 819 Broadway, her home 822 Oakland Avenue, Mount Vernon. Like her husband she has made the Holt name a symbol of integrity in the area.

WILLIAM CHARLIE HUDGENS

At 606 West Main Street, Carbondale, stands a business modern in every respect and enjoying tremendous prestige among the citizens of Jackson County. It is the Hudgens Motor Company, dealers in Buick automobiles, founded and owned by William Charlie Hudgens, a man well known in Southern Illinois.

Mr. Hudgens was born at West Frankfort, Franklin County, on February 26, 1898. He is the younger of two sons of the late Richard and Josephine (Hampton) Hudgens. The father, a native of Western Tennessee, was a farmer and coal miner who died when his younger son was fifteen years old. The other son is Ira Hudgens. Josephine Hampton Hudgens was born in Johnston City, Williamson County.

After he had completed the eighth grade in Williamson County, William C. Hudgens spent two years in high school. Later he studied at Brown's Business College, Marion, from which he was graduated in 1917. From 1916 to 1919 he was with the C. W. and F. Mining Company in West Virginia. He was

also with the West Virginia Coal Company for three months and later was assistant chief clerk for the Madison Coal Company and then clerk for the Peabody Coal Company. In the summers he worked in an ice plant in Marion, receiving fifteen cents an hour. For a time he worked in Chicago for the Western Electric Company and then for a year he sold meat for the Harrisburg Packing Company. In 1925, Mr. Hudgens became a traveling salesman for the Hunter Packing Company. He remained with this company more than fourteen years. Six years after going to work for it, however, he took over the Studebaker agency in Carbondale. In 1934, he added the Hudson car to his merchandise. Meantime, he continued selling meat and meat products on the road. By 1940, he had developed his automobile business to the point where he could resign from the Hunter concern. For a period he carried the Oldsmobile car, but he now represents the Buick. He has built a modern structure of his own, with service and repair shops, at 606 West Main Street, and is constantly expanding his business. In World War II Mr. Hudgens also operated a gasoline filling station.

In the period when he was still working for coal companies—on February 12, 1922—Mr. Hudgens married Nell Rowatt, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rowatt of Cartersville. Mr. and Mrs. Hudgens have a daughter, Jean Ellen, who was born on December 15, 1931, and an adopted son, Billy Dean, who was born on December 9, 1926. The latter, who served with the United States Navy as an Ensign, prepared for the legal profession at Washington University. Mrs. Hudgens is active in church work and is a former president of the Parent-Teacher Association.

Mr. Hudgens is a member of the National Automobile Dealers Association, the Lions Club of Marion, Southern Illinois, Inc., the Masonic order, the Jackson Country Club and the Midland Hills Club. He is active in Red Cross work and in civic affairs in general. He likes all outdoor sports, especially hunting and fishing. As a hunter, he goes after pheasant and moose. Also, he is an enthusiastic traveler, having visited every section of the United States, Cuba, Mexico and Canada.

RAYMOND EMIL BENOIST

Famed in Illinois and among oil men everywhere is the Benoist name. Not only are the Benoists operating in that industry but they

have given their name to a celebrated geological structure—the Benoist oil sand formation. This marks the spot on the Benoist farm near Sandoval in Marion County where the first oil was found in Illinois west of Robison, seat of Crawford County. An outstanding member of the family is Raymond Emil Benoist. He, and his two brothers, L. L. and C. G. Benoist, are active not only in oil but in the heating equipment business and as orchardists. As orchardists, they are credited with innovating the “pick your own” system, whereby individuals and entire families pick fruit directly from the trees to supply their own tables or for private canning.

Raymond Emil Benoist was born at Sandoval on April 26, 1895, the son of Albert E. and Flora (Dill) Benoist. The father, born in St. Louis on April 23, 1857, died at Sandoval, Illinois in 1938. He was a carpenter, farmer, butcher and oil man. It was on his farm near Sandoval, that the Benoist oil sand formation was found. This oil field was developed by the Big Four Oil Company in 1908 and still produces oil, under operations by the Benoist brothers, now headquartered at Mount Vernon, in Jefferson County. Albert E. Benoist went to the Rio Grande Valley in Texas in 1926, and became a big land and business operator in the Harlingen vicinity. Flora Benoist's father was John G. Dill, a writer of note and editor of the first paper published in St. Louis. Raymond E. Benoist was educated in Sandoval's public schools and at Brown's Business College, Centralia. He began his career as an oil pumper and producer in the oil fields around Sandoval. Also, he, with his brother A. L. Benoist, now of Harlingen, Texas, operated a hardware, furniture and undertaking business in that community. In World War I, he enlisted in the Army and served with the railroad artillery. After two years' service he was severely injured and had to be hospitalized five years. In 1924 he joined his brothers in the hardware business in Mount Vernon. Three years later they established the wholesale plumbing and heating equipment business known as the Benoist Brothers Supply Company. Covering Southern Illinois, the firm has 200 active dealers. In 1947 it won the Silver Cup for selling more coal stokers than any other wholesaler in the United States. The Benoists are active in oil prospecting and producing in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. As orchardists they have seventy acres of peaches and twenty of apples. “Pick your own” parties come to their orchards



RAYMOND EMIL BENOIST

from Chicago and as far off as Missouri and Indiana. They began the system in 1942, and on the first day more than 1900 bushels of peaches had been picked by eight o'clock in the morning. The plan has been written up nationally in newspapers and magazines. The Benoist brothers now own about one hundred and forty pieces of business property in Harlingen, Texas, among which includes one building valued at approximately \$450,000.00, which is leased by Sears-Roebuck Co. on a twenty-year lease on a percentage basis. This building covers one city block.

An outstanding 1950 improvement and development just being completed by R. E. Benoist and his brothers, is the expansion and remodeling, to the extent of \$75,000.00, to their large building located on the west side of the square in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. This building is well known as the Benoist Building and has housed the Benoist Bros. Hardware Store on the first floor for over thirty-five years, as well as the First Bank of Mt. Vernon and the Roy Price Jewelry Store for thirty-three years. The Kroger Grocery Store is another occupant. Now this large building has been remodeled to contain thirty office rooms on the second floor, all of which are now rented. The first floor, 60' x 100', is occupied by Benoist Bros. Hardware Store. This progressive firm has added many new lines such as heating, plumbing, electric, air-conditioning, appliances, and many other comparable supplies, making it one of the largest and most modern stores in southern Illinois. The outstanding improvement is the all glass front, having three six foot double swinging door entrances with a four foot white metal canopy across the entire building front and on part of the side. Minnesota Opal Pink Granite is used above and below the show windows. It is set on a Terazzo foundation with Terazzo in all entrances. The area above the canopy is of Zourite white metal. The floors are of beautifully designed rubber tile and the interior is adorned with the most modern blonde fixtures available. The entire building is fitted for air-conditioning and warm air heating. The all glass front makes the entire interior visible to any one passing by.

Mr. Benoist married Elsie C. Wiltch of St. Louis. A daughter, DeLoies, was born to them October 17, 1919. She is now Mrs. Bert Holman and the mother of Patty Ann Holman, born July 7, 1942, and Becky Sue Holman, born July 3, 1946. The family worships in the Methodist Church, and resides at 811 North Twelfth Street, Mount Vernon. Mr. Be-

noist's business address is 117 South Tenth Street.

Mr. Benoist is active in the Illinois Oil and Gas Producers Association, the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, the Optimist Club of Mount Vernon, the American Heating Engineers, the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans. He has made an extra-ordinary contribution to the development of Illinois.

J. CLYDE EVANS

Born under extreme pioneering conditions, given little schooling and handicapped by having in early boyhood to go to work to help support a large family, J. Clyde Evans of Springfield has nevertheless risen to a position of eminence, influence and wealth. A building contractor he has many important private, commercial, fraternal, educational and public structures to his credit, among them the Springfield Elks Club and the Post Office in the capital. He has erected buildings in many communities in Downstate Illinois and is a leading citizen of that area.

Mr. Evans' father, Robert J. Evans, a school teacher, farmer and in later years also a contractor, was born at Effingham, Illinois. The mother, the former Louise Carver, was born at Virginia, Illinois. In the 1880's the parents went into what was then pioneer country, Western Kansas, and there the father built an earthen dugout for his family on the land he homesteaded. It was in this dugout that J. Clyde Evans was born on September 5, 1885. He was one of eight children. When he was still quite young, the family returned to Illinois and Robert J. Evans became a farmer at Elkhart. Here J. Clyde Evans attended a grade school for a time. But the family was too big for a poor farmer to support and Clyde, at the age of ten, left school to take work that would help the family. Later, however, he was able to get two years of high school. For a time he worked on his father's farm, but when he was fourteen he went to Springfield, where he became a member of a railroad section gang, at a daily wage of one dollar. Finally, he obtained the opportunity to learn the carpenter's trade, receiving five dollars a week for a nine-hour, six-day week. Before he was really well launched as a carpenter, however, Mr. Evans took a job in a grocery store. There he stayed two years, after which for six months he drove a milk wagon. At the end of this period he returned to carpenter work.

Mr. Evans married at the age of twenty-

three. This was in May, 1909, and the bride's name was Emma Louise Eisele. Two children were born to this marriage—Howard, in 1911, and Helen, in 1913. The son, who is vice-president of the Evans Contracting Company and virtually runs the business today, married Jane Lewis, daughter of a Springfield attorney, and they have one son, Bobbie, who was born in 1936. The daughter is now Mrs. Elmer Loeb and the mother of Judith Ann Loeb, who was born in 1937. Another of the family who should be mentioned here is J. Clyde Evans' brother, Curtis Evans, who has been his associate since about 1923 and is now secretary and treasurer of the contracting company, and is also well known in Springfield. He married Vandeth C. Rosamond in 1925 and has three children, Lawrence, born in 1928, Philip, born in 1930, and Carolyn, born in 1943.

In 1912, when he had been back at carpentering for a time, J. Clyde Evans became a contractor. He had a hard time getting started, rode a bicycle around to get jobs and built small homes or did alterations. Later he was able to hire two or three men. His first big job came to him in 1921. This was for the six-story modern Elks Club building. After the Elks Club came the Illinois Building, the Post Office, the Franklin Life Insurance building, several theaters and numerous other structures. In 1950 the firm was awarded the contracts for three school buildings in Decatur. In 1945 Mr. Evans bought four large ice plants and since then he has purchased five others. He belongs to all Masonic bodies up to the Shrine, the Lions Club, the YMCA, the Sangamo Club, the Manufacturers Association, and the Chamber of Commerce. He is a builder in every sense of the word—a man credited with much of the development of Springfield and the nearby territory.

CAMPBELL HOLTON

All of Illinois is the territory of the wholesale grocery business organized by Campbell Holton in 1907—the Campbell Holton & Company, with headquarters at 501 South Gridley Street, Bloomington. Mr. Holton, still President of the Company, maintains an active eye on the business, but in his octogenarian years gives more attention to his personal and community interests. He has not only been a leading business man of the city and state for more than four decades, but an outstanding figure in health and welfare and youth-serving activities.

Mr. Holton was born at Vincennes, Indiana

on August 11, 1866, the son of Thomas Tilghman and Ellen Campbell Holton; his father, Thomas Tilghman Holton was born in Aberdeen, (Brown County) Ohio across from Maysville, Kentucky; he taught school in Ohio and later attended and graduated from Bethany College in West Virginia, where he met Ellen Margaret Campbell, a cousin of Alexander Campbell. They were married in 1862 and settled in Falmouth, Kentucky, then on to Vincennes, Indiana; Springfield, Illinois; Berlin, Illinois; Lincoln, Illinois; Tallula, Illinois; Deland, Illinois, and finally settled in Bloomington, Illinois. He died at the age of 86, after preaching steadily for sixty-five years in Kentucky, Indiana and since 1870 in Illinois.

Mr. Holton's mother was born in Newry, County Down, Ireland, she came to this country in 1835 in a sailing vessel and her family settled in Bethany, West Virginia. She was a cousin of Alexander Campbell, who was one of the early pioneers in the Christian Church and who founded Bethany College, in West Virginia, which is still a growing and prosperous College of the Christian Church.

Campbell Holton received his schooling in Berlin and Lincoln, Illinois and on graduating in June 1882 he associated himself with the C. E. Ross Grocery Store in Lincoln, Illinois. On September 23, 1890 Mr. Holton married Adelaide May Blake, in Clinton, Illinois at the home of her mother, Mrs. Susan Ford Blake, who was born in County Cork, Ireland.

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell Holton are the parents of—Campbell Blake Holton, born on January 16, 1894, who married Grace McCormick of Normal, Illinois and they have two children—Campbell Blake Holton and Sara McCormick Holton. They also have a daughter Ellen Margaret Holton Larsen of East San Gabriel, California; she was born April 23, 1904.

Mr. and Mrs. Holton moved from Lincoln, Illinois to Bloomington in 1894 and he became associated with the firm of J. F. Humphreys & Company, wholesale grocers. In 1907 the wholesale grocery business of Campbell Holton & Company was organized, to distribute their HAPPY HOUR line of fine foods and also a general line of all products needed by large or small stores. They employ seventeen salesmen and serve a large section in the state of Illinois. They specialize on Health Foods and Institution business.

Mr. Holton has been prominent in many fields. In the business world he has been President of the Illinois Wholesale Grocers'



CAMPBELL HOLTAN

Association and active in the National Wholesale Grocers' Association, the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Bloomington. He is a director of the Bloomington Federal Loan and Savings Association and of the Brokaw Hospital. He is also a director of the Bloomington Charter American Red Cross and active in such other community and welfare organizations as the McLean County Tuberculosis Association, the Bloomington Young Men's Christian Association and the Salvation Army at Bloomington. Also, he is a member of the Longfellow Club and of the Masonic fraternity.

Mr. and Mrs. Holton are Charter Members of the Second Christian Church and have lived at 1009 North McLean, in Bloomington for fifty years.

Mr. Holton is a beloved figure in the community.

EDWARD HENRY MOROFF

Numerous public structures—hospitals, schools and bridges, among others—stand in Illinois to the memory of the late John Moroff and to the leadership of his son, Edward Henry Moroff of Kankakee. These structures were erected by the firm of John Moroff and Son, contractors with offices at 1521 East Court Street, Kankakee, a firm founded by the father and headed today by the son. Like the father the son has won a position of great stature in his native state.

Edward Henry Moroff was born in the Southern Illinois coal mining town of Kinmundy, Marion County, on June 23, 1890, and was educated in grade school at Bradley, Kankakee County. His father, a native of Bilten, Canton Glarus, Switzerland, was brought to Illinois by his parents when he was a small child. The family first settled in Kinmundy but later, in 1892, moved to Kankakee. It was in Kankakee that John Moroff achieved the greatest development of his contracting business, but he had started at Bradley. His wife, who was Louisa Kress and born in Paris, France, of German parentage, also came to America in childhood. They were married at Franklin, Nebraska. Of this marriage Edward Moroff is the oldest child. He also had two sisters, Fannie and Clara. The latter died when eight.

John Moroff transferred his contracting business to Kankakee in 1892. There he was soon an outstanding citizen. He was a veteran of the Civil War and had for a time in that conflict been stationed in an Indian fort in Wyoming and at Santa Fe, New Mexico. It

was after that war that he moved to Illinois. He died in Kankakee in 1938 of injuries resulting from an automobile accident. He was eighty years old. The son Edward joined his father in the contracting business when he left grade school. They worked together in John Moroff and Son until the father's retirement a few years before his death. The partnership was formed when Edward Moroff was twenty-one years old. Mr. Moroff continues to do a general contracting business. Some of his better known jobs have been the Kankakee High School, the State Armory at Kankakee, the LaSalle-Peru Township High School, most of the buildings at the Kankakee State Hospital, including the Veterans' Ward and the Power Plant which were completed in 1950, the Rock River Bridge between Sterling and Rock River. There have been many other well-known structures built under the aegis of John Moroff and Son, headed by Edward Moroff.

Mr. Moroff's wife is the former Dorothy Pollock, the daughter of Robert and Christine Frances Pollock. Her father was born in Nebraska, her mother in Illinois. The father came to Illinois in boyhood and became an oil company salesman. Mrs. Moroff has a brother, Robert. Her two sisters, twins, Hazel and Helen, died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Moroff, who were married at Oregon, Illinois, have one son, Edward John Moroff, who was born on January 30, 1926, and who is now associated with his father in the contracting business, and a daughter, Genevieve, who was born on June 12, 1930.

Edward Henry Moroff, a well known citizen in Eastern Illinois, is a member of several Masonic bodies, including the Kankakee Consistory, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite; Kankakee Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the Illinois and Kankakee Builders Club, and the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce. In World War I Mr. Moroff was with the United States Infantry at Camp Wheeler, Georgia. His hobby is his business, while his favorite recreation is golf. He worships in the Methodist Church. Eastern Illinois has felt the impact of his personality and his leadership in the contracting business.

CHARLES WILLIAM ROUTSON

Third generation of a family which has been serving Logan County and the vicinity in the construction business, Charles William Routson of Lincoln is today an outstanding figure in that area. Mr. Routson is not only the owner of the Routson Construction Com-

pany of Lincoln but also a large stockholder in the Stetson China Company there. He is noted for his leadership in work for boys, in fraternal and civic organizations and in the religious world.

Born in Lincoln in September, 1885, Mr. Routson is the son of Edward Franklin Routson, another native of Logan County, and the grandson of Jacob Routson, a native of Germany who was brought to the United States in boyhood. The grandfather and his family first settled in Pennsylvania, but later moved to Illinois, establishing homes in what is now Logan County and near what is now Lincoln. The grandfather founded the construction business which was later owned by his son Edward and is now owned by the latter's son Charles. Charles Routson was formally educated in the public schools of Lincoln. Later, he took an architectural home study course. When he left public school he went to work for his father in the construction business. In the early days father and son built homes, but since 1910, when Charles Routson took over the business from his father, he has constructed not only homes but many other types of buildings, including schools and hospitals and other public edifices. In 1911, Mr. Routson, expanding further, built his own sawmill and planing mill. This has been added to several times since then and Mr. Routson now planes his own lumber, as well as handles all kinds of building supplies, which he sells to others. He makes small items, including cabinets, for sale. From 25 to 80 persons are employed in his far-flung operations. His holdings in the Stetson China Company of Lincoln add further to his stature as a business man in the Logan County area.

Mr. Routson married Bessie Fawcett in 1908. They have one child—Bessie, now Mrs. Raymond Hoy and the mother of three children: Phyllis Elaine Hoy; Charlene Rae Hoy, and Paul Raymond Hoy.

As a leader in religious affairs Mr. Routson is an elder in the Christian Church and a director of the Lincoln Bible Institute. In the community at large he has been an active sponsor of the Boy Scouts of America and served as Exalted Ruler of the Lincoln Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He also belongs to the Rotary and Optimist Clubs of Lincoln and to the Lincoln Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His activities have promoted the growth and prosperity of Lincoln and Logan County and brought him to the fore as a citizen.

RAYMOND JOSEPH BENOIT

In Kankakee County, home of many Americans of French-Canadian descent, the name of Benoit has long been synonymous with those qualities which spell industry and ability and with a highly valuable contribution to the growth of the country. The "seat" of the family, so to speak, is Bourbonnais Township, and it was there that Raymond Joseph Benoit, a leading business man of the county seat, Kankakee, today, was born. Once a farmer in the old home township, later a salesman and service station operator, and finally a roofer and carpenter, Mr. Benoit now owns three businesses, with an aggregate volume of \$1,000,000 a year. Through these businesses—the Benoit Roofing and Sheet Metal Company, the Benoit Construction Company and the Acme Wholesale and Distributing Company—Mr. Benoit has not only aided the commercial development of the city and region but contributed to alleviation of the housing shortage at a time when it was most acute. He is an outstanding personality in his field of business and in civic affairs in general.

Mr. Benoit's birth took place on July 2, 1909, on the farm of his father, Joseph D. Benoit. Both his father and the mother, Celinese (Lambert) Benoit, were also born in Bourbonnais Township. Joseph Benoit, who was a farmer and cattleman on the grand scale, served the township as highway commissioner for fourteen years. He was reared only a half mile from his birthplace. Besides raising livestock, he tilled more than eight hundred acres of Bourbonnais Township soil. Raymond Benoit's grandparents on both sides came to Illinois from Canada. He is one of twelve children—six boys and six girls.

Mr. Benoit went to a county rural school for three years and then to St. Margaret's School in the township. For two years he was at St. Viator's High School there. His first work was under his father's supervision—privately, on the farm; publicly, on the township road system. Then he went to Detroit, Michigan, where many others of French descent have lived since Cadillac's day, and there worked as a millwright for six or eight months. For a while he also sold antiques, both in Detroit and Chicago. Returning to the Motor City from the Windy City, he spent six months with the Burroughs Adding Machine Company. From Detroit he dropped down to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he installed turbines in municipal plants. For a few months



RAYMOND JOSEPH BENOIT

after that, he operated a service station in in that city. The Fall of 1929 found Mr. Benoit back on the family farm in Bourbonnais Township, where he helped his father until the Spring of 1930. Since that time he has been in business for himself, having started as roofer and carpenter. His three big business houses are the result of that early start in the depression and are also the result of tremendous effort to overcome difficulties. The Acme Wholesale and Distributing Company handles building materials on a wholesale basis and feeds not only the Benoit Roofing and Sheet Metal and the Benoit Construction Company but also firms of other ownership. Mr. Benoit built thirty homes—all sold soon afterward—to relieve the housing shortage in Kankakee. There is barely anyone in that city who is better known or more respected than he today.

On September 3, 1931, Mr. Benoit married Leonie Regnier at Kankakee. Mrs. Benoit is a native of Indiana and a member of a family which has been farming for generations. She is active in Kankakee's civic life, being a member of the Women's Club, the Kankakee Country Club and the Garden Club. She and Mr. Benoit are the parents of three children—Phyllis Benoit, born on January 3, 1933; Shirley Benoit, born in 1933, who died at the age of three months, and Garry Ray Benoit, born on May 10, 1939, now in St. Patrick's Grade School, Kankakee. Phyllis Benoit is now (1950) a senior at St. Patrick's and is the drum majorette of the school band.

The entire family is active in St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and Mr. Benoit is a prominent lay Catholic. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Lions Club of Kankakee, the Kankakee Lodges of the Loyal Order of Moose and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Kankakee and Illinois State Chambers of Commerce. In his field of business, he is a former secretary and president of the Kankakee Builders Club and a leading worker in the Kankakee Community Chest. His business and civic activities have made him outstanding in the entire northeastern section of the state.

EMMETT VINCENT POSTON

He was born in Nelsonville, Ohio, on June 23, 1888. His father, whose birthplace was a farm near Logan, Ohio, was in the brick business before him. Emmett Poston was educated in grade and high schools at Crawfordsville, Indiana, and at the University of Illinois, from which he was graduated in 1911

with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Ceramics. His father, who at the age of eighteen had begun work in the brick industry in Nelsonville, moved to Veedersburg in 1892. There he purchased a paving-brick plant. After eight years he built another plant at Crawfordsville, Indiana, where in 1900 the first texture-faced brick was manufactured. The father's brother, Clarence Poston, bought stock in this plant and as the Poston Paving Brick Company it was operated until 1909. In that year, Irvin G. Poston, the father, sold out and moved to Martinsville, Indiana, where he built another plant. At that time his brother went to Attica where he built a plant operated today by his sons.

It was at Martinsville, Indiana, that Emmett Poston joined his father in the business. He continued with his father in Indiana until 1915, when he came to Illinois and, with his father's help, built his present plant in Springfield. At that time the father retired; in 1945, he died. The Springfield plant began operating in 1916. In 1928 Mr. Poston and his associates took over a paving brick plant located in Springfield. In 1937 he added concrete block to his products. In 1946, Mr. Poston and his sons, Walter Dow and William Emmett, entered the transit-mix concrete business and in 1948 the building materials business. They now have three large warehouses, employ 200 persons and operate year-round.

In 1914 Mr. Poston married Beryl Nutter. Besides the sons they have a daughter, Joella, born in 1917, now Mrs. Wade Wrenn and the mother of John, Robert and Christine Wrenn. Of the two sons, Walter Dow Poston was born in 1921 and William Emmett Poston in 1924. The latter, married, has two sons, Robert, born in 1948 and Thomas, born in 1950. Both sons are veterans of World War II.

Mr. Poston's home is at 1660 West Laurel Street, Springfield. He belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Optimist Club, the Illini Country Club and various Masonic bodies, including the Jesters and the Shrine. His fraternity is Beta Theta Pi and his church the Presbyterian. Golf is his favorite sport.

HARRY J. and ROBERT G. McCONNELL

A business with a growing reputation in the Middle West is the McConnell Brothers Company of Springfield, pattern and die firm and makers of rural route mail box name plates and other items. This firm is a partnership operated by Harry J. McConnell and his

younger brother, Robert G. McConnell, both of whom are prominent in the civic life of the state capital.

The brothers are the sons of the late Frank L. McConnell, a tool and die maker who died in April, 1948, and of Minnie (Billington) McConnell. Harry J. McConnell was born in Springfield on January 12, 1908, and for a time studied in a private school. Later he attended Broadview College, LaGrange, Cook County, where he was a student for two years. After he left school he became a painter, and followed this occupation in Springfield until 1945. In that year he and his brother founded the McConnell Brothers Company in Springfield and proceeded to develop the business as a pattern and die works. In the fall of 1946 the brothers began the manufacture of rural route mail box name plates. Their plant has facilities for molding 300 plates a day. The plates sell for \$2.50 to \$12.50. The McConnells' shop is exceedingly well equipped, with a variety of machinery for many other types of production besides the name plates and general pattern and die operations. It does most of the pattern work for the Illinois Foundry Company in Springfield. By 1950, the brothers had manufactured and sold more than 31,000 name plates in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and nearby states, and were making plans for adding several items to their list of manufactures.

Harry J. McConnell married Marguerite Scott of Springfield on August 28, 1932. They have a daughter, Nancy Arline McConnell, who was born on February 14, 1948. They worship in the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Mr. McConnell's chief recreation is bird hunting.

Robert G. McConnell was born on April 17, 1910, and was educated in the Springfield schools. He began his career as a pattern maker in the Sternman Pattern Shop, Springfield, where he was employed from 1927 to 1945. He resigned that job to join his brother in the formation of the McConnell Brothers Company. The two brothers are equal partners in this business, and share the responsibilities as follows: Harry J. McConnell manages the name plate business, Robert G. McConnell manages the pattern business.

Robert G. McConnell married Agnes B. Scott, sister of Mrs. Harry J. McConnell, in Springfield on October 19, 1935. They also have a daughter—Janet Elaine McConnell, who was born on April 5, 1942. Mr. McConnell's favorite sport is sailing.

Both the McConnells are leading citizens of Springfield, and are popular among the younger business men of the community.

RALPH EDWARD SUDDER, LL.B.

A man who has served his country in time of war as well as peace, Ralph Edward Suddes of Mattoon is an attorney with a growing reputation in Central Illinois. He is a leader in veterans' programs as well as in the bar, and has held various high offices in several organizations.

Mr. Suddes was born at Virden, Macoupin County, on August 30, 1911, the son of Fred J. and Dorothy Ellen (English) Suddes, both of whom are deceased. His father, a native of Springfield, Illinois, was mine boss for the C. W. and F. Company at West Frankfort, Illinois. The mother was born in Colorado, a daughter of John and Hannah English.

Upon his graduation from the Benton High School at Benton, Illinois, Ralph E. Suddes in 1929 began his career. He followed various fields of interest until, having decided to prepare for the legal profession, he entered the University of Illinois. At first he enrolled in the university's School of Commerce, where he made the highest grades in his first semester, as far back as 1934. At the university he became secretary of the Dads' Association and was elected to Phi Eta Sigma, the honorary society. In 1940, he was graduated from the University of Illinois School of Law, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws.

Admitted to the Illinois State Bar in 1940, Mr. Suddes began his practice in association with Judge Donovan D. McCarty at Olney. Subsequently, he transferred his practice to Centralia, where he remained three years, or until the beginning of American participation in World War II. Mr. Suddes went into the United States Naval Reserve on August 28, 1943, and served until February 8, 1946. Most of his time with the armed forces he was in courtmartial work at the United States Naval Training Center at Farragut, Idaho. He held the rating of Yeoman First Class. After his separation from the service, Mr. Suddes opened his own law office in the Demaree Building, Mattoon, where he is now centering all his professional activities.

He married Marjorie B. Williams, daughter of William and Margaret Williams of Springfield, in the University Place Christian Church, Champaign, on August 16, 1946. Mrs. Suddes is a former Federal Civil Service employee at Springfield, Champaign and Indian-



RALPH EDWARD SUDDER, LL.B.

apolis. Mr. and Mrs. Suddes live at 3305 Richmond Avenue, Mattoon.

As an attorney, Mr. Suddes has been secretary of the Coles County Bar Association and attorney for the Coles County Rent Control Board (1947-1948), and was appointed Assistant States Attorney for Coles County in September, 1949. He was commander of the Lawrence Riddle Post No. 88, American Legion, in the year 1948-1949. He was chairman of the Coles County C. R. O. P. in 1948. He also belongs to the Illinois Bar Association, the Anti-Thief Association, the Coles County 40 and 8, the Masonic fraternity, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Mattoon Association of Commerce, the Knights of Pythias and the Kiwanis Club of Mattoon. He was a deacon in 1947 of the Presbyterian Church of Mattoon. Mr. Suddes' favorite sports are golf, swimming and baseball. His hobby is wood-working, especially the refinishing of antiques.

He is one of the influential citizens of Coles County.

CHICAGO & ILLINOIS MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY

History and Description of the

Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway Company

I. Description of Property

The Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway Company is a heavy-duty, dense-traffic line, serving coal mining and other major industries of Central Illinois as well as comprising an important link in the flow of cross-country routings. The road is about 130 miles in length, extending from Taylorville, Illinois, through Springfield, Havana, Pekin, and on into Peoria, Illinois. About 15 miles of this is operated under long-term lease with the Illinois Central and about 9 miles (Pekin to Peoria) under similar lease with the Peoria and Pekin Union Railway Company. The C&IM owns one-twelfth of the common stock of the P&PU. The road has many connections with large trunk lines, 12 in the Pekin-Peoria area; Peoria being a natural gateway for the cross-country flow of traffic

II. Corporate History

The corporate history of this property falls into two parts; that pertaining to the 29 miles of owned Taylorville Division and that pertaining to the 77 miles of owned Springfield Division.

The Taylorville Division was the original line; and its inception began with the organ-

ization of the Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway Company and its incorporation July 17, 1905, as the Central Illinois Railway Company. The name was changed to present title January 22, 1906. Mainly, it was constructed in 1906 and 1907 with some 4 miles of extensions in 1916 and 1917.

The C&IM acquired control, through stock ownership, of 77 miles of Springfield Division on March 17, 1926, and on July 16, 1936, took title outright to that line. Corporate history of this Springfield Division property follows:

1. Illinois River Railroad Company, incorporated in 1853, built from Virginia, Illinois, through Havana to Pekin, Illinois;
2. Peoria, Pekin and Jacksonville Railroad Company, incorporated June 11, 1863, acquired the line of railroad of Illinois River Railroad Company by deed from John Allen et al, dated May 21, 1864;
3. Springfield and Northwestern Railroad Company, incorporated March 24, 1869, constructed line of railroad from Springfield to Havana, Illinois;
4. Springfield & Northwestern Railway Company, organized in 1878, acquired the line of railroad built by the Springfield and Northwestern Railroad Company by deed dated June 17, 1878;
5. Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Railway Company (now Wabash Railroad Company) acquired the Springfield & Northwestern Railway Company by deed dated July 30, 1881, and the Peoria, Pekin and Jacksonville Railroad Company, by deed dated July 25, 1881;
6. Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railway Company of Illinois, incorporated February 9, 1887, acquired by deed dated June 28, 1888, through James F. Joy et al, the lines of railroad formerly owned by the Peoria, Pekin and Jacksonville Railroad Company, and by the Springfield and Northwestern Railway Company;
7. Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railway Company of Illinois in the years following, went into and out of receiverships and reorganizations, always, however, retaining some variation of the original corporate title. Other lines of road were acquired so that operations reached from Peoria to Alton, Illinois, and East St. Louis, Illinois, until—
8. Springfield, Havana and Peoria Railroad Company, organized July 28, 1925, acquired title on March 17, 1926, to that part of the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railroad Company, extending from Springfield,

- Illinois, northwardly through Havana, to Pekin, Illinois, some 77 miles in length;
9. Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway Company acquired title to properties of Springfield, Havana and Peoria Railroad Company on July 16, 1936.

The C&IM is controlled by Commonwealth Edison through stock ownership.

III. Operations of the Property

About 80 per cent of the traffic handled is bituminous coal, originating at the six mines served by the road. From 7,500,000 to 8,000,000 tons are shipped annually.

Approximately 95 per cent of this coal is consigned to large power producing plants, owned or controlled by Commonwealth Edison Company. These plants are all located in the Chicago metropolitan and surrounding area except for the Powerton Plant, which is located on the rails of the C&IM just south of Pekin.

A substantial portion of the coal shipped to power plants in the Chicago area moves by a combination C&IM Rail—Illinois River Route by use of a coal transfer plant at Havana, Illinois, located on the Illinois River. Some of the Chicago area power plants are located on water routes, permitting delivery of coal from river barges.

Activities in respect to this rail-river route for moving coal from mines on the C&IM to the Chicago power plants began in the year, 1933, and have grown through the years by the installation of improved coal transfer plants at Havana; until, at the present time, there is in operation a modern plant—on the banks of the Illinois River just north of Havana and on the rails of the C&IM—capable of dumping car loads of coal, which by means of a conveyor belt system is deposited upon barges in the river.

Another interesting highlight in the functioning of this railroad, is the operation of an experimental and demonstration farm a few miles northeast of Havana, known as Cimco Farm. The agricultural activities by the C&IM are considered unique among railroads, although the farm operation is definitely a part of the railroad operation.

This farm (adjacent to the line of railroad) acquired in 1927, lying in a sandy belt, extensive in scope, has through the years by means of many tests and demonstrations to a large number of farmers, promoted the production of a number of types of farm produce, new to the agricultural activities throughout the area. Efficiency in production

has been greatly enhanced by demonstrations on the Farm of the use of many types of fertilizer for sandy soil; production of turkeys has grown from a few dozen in 1929 to upwards of 10,000 per annum, creating practically a new industry in the area. Many other innovations in agricultural use of sandy soil have been instituted and demonstrated. A regularly issued publication on the Farm activities is published, known as "Cimco Fortnightly," the circulation of which is quite extensive.

FRED L. SCHRADER

Back in 1908, when he was only seventeen years old, Fred L. Schrader entered the railroad business. He worked with first one line and then another, but always he kept rising in the industry and advancing his reputation. Today he is president of the Chicago and Illinois Midland Railway Company, with headquarters in Springfield, and a member of the board of directors of the Peoria and Pekin Union Railway Company and an outstanding figure in the transportation world.

Mr. Schrader was born in Creston, Iowa, on January 25, 1891, the son of Frederick A. and Margaret Adaline (Sayler) Schrader. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Ottumwa, Iowa, where the future railroad president received his education in the public schools.

When he began his railroad career in 1908, Mr. Schrader entered the employ of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company. His first job was as fuel clerk in the mechanical department offices in Ottumwa. He rose to shops timekeeper and general clerk. In 1912, he left this line to accept employment with the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railroad Company at Springfield. His position with this road was that of chief timekeeper. He advanced rapidly with the CP&StL RR. Co., serving a couple of years in special work for the accounting department, then as chief clerk of the maintenance of way department, special representative in the office of the general manager, chief clerk to the general manager until, in 1920, eight years after joining the organization, he was appointed assistant general manager. All these activities were within the CP&StL RR. Co., with offices in Springfield. In 1926, when the Chicago and Illinois Midland Railway Company acquired control of a portion of the line of railroad of the CP&StL RR. Co. (the latter corporation being then dissolved), Mr. Schrader was made assistant to the senior vice-



FRED OREN KUEHNE, JR.

president of the Chicago and Illinois Midland Railway Company. In 1940, he was elected vice-president of the company and on December 15, 1945, he was elected its president.

About a year after he joined the CP&StL RR. Company, on July 23, 1913, Mr. Schrader married Cora Adele Barrow, the daughter of Emerson Ethridge Barrow and Minnie May (Williams) Barrow. Their home address is 1045 Williams Boulevard, Springfield.

Besides serving as the Chicago and Illinois Midland Railway Company's president, Mr. Schrader is on its board of directors and the executive committee. The Peoria and Pekin Union Railway Company, of which he is also a director, maintains its headquarters in Peoria. He is a member of two professional organizations, the American Railway Development Association and the Western Railway Club; and of many business and social clubs, among them the Sangamon Club, the Illini Country Club, the Kiwanis Club of Springfield and the Union League Club of Chicago. Mr. Schrader has made a widely-recognized contribution to railroading and, thereby, to the commercial development of a large region of the country.

FRED OREN KUEHNE, JR.

The Mattoon plant of the Kuehne Furniture Manufacturing Company is the largest in the industry. Fred Oren Kuehne, Jr., who holds the controlling interest in the company, is one of the outstanding personalities in the nation's furniture business and is a high officer of the National Association of Furniture Manufacturers. He is also a farmer and cattle breeder and interested in grain and banking. Among his other activities are work on behalf of the Methodist Memorial Hospital and his leadership in affairs concerning Monticello College at Alton.

Mr. Kuehne was born in Chicago on March 5, 1898, the son of Fred George and Martha (Oren) Kuehne. His father, born near Hortonville, Wisconsin, on July 21, 1862, was a building contractor in Chicago for many years. He is now retired and living at Mattoon with his son. The elder Mr. Kuehne's parents were pioneers in Wisconsin, where they homesteaded.

Fred Kuehne, Jr., was educated at the Lewis Institute of Technology, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Science, and Northwestern University, where he received the degree of Mechanical Engineer in 1918. His first experiences in the business

world were successively, methods engineer for the Western Electric Company, mechanical engineer in charge of development for the Standard Aircraft Corporation, works manager for the Standard Aircraft Corporation and works manager for the Pullman Couch Company. He started in business for himself, as a furniture manufacturer, in Chicago. After a time, the Chicago plant was sold and the business re-located in Trenton, Illinois. When it outgrew the Trenton plant, another was established at Flora, Illinois, and in 1934 the new plant was erected in Mattoon, and it has now grown to be the largest in the industry.

On September 1, 1920, Mr. Kuehne married Vivian Pratt, daughter of Frank and Josephine Pratt of Chicago, and they have become the parents of two children—Fred Marshall Kuehne, who married Jane Patterson, and Jeanne Kuehne, now the wife of George William Cunningham of Galton, Illinois, and mother of William Cunningham, born in 1947, and James Fredrick Cunningham, born in 1949.

Mr. Kuehne's farm is known as Bon Air Farm and is on Route Three, Mattoon. He owns a herd of purebred Aberdeen-Angus cattle and many head of purebred Hampshire hogs. He is a member of the Methodist Hospital board and vice chairman of the board of Monticello College. He is also on the boards of the Douglas County Grain Company, the National Bank of Mattoon and the National Association of Furniture Manufacturers, being a vice president of this organization. In addition, he belongs to the Masonic fraternity and the Lake Shore Athletic Club. His church is the Lutheran. Music is his major avocational interest. He plays the organ exceptionally well, having a Hammond electric organ in his home, which is at Bon Air Farm. Other recreational interests include horseback riding, bowling and managing his farming interests.

Mr. Kuehne is described as of "medium height and sandy complexion. He is a tireless worker and takes keen interest in community affairs and the welfare of his employees. He has an exceptional sense of humor and is well liked by employees and members of the community."

JOSEPH W. STETSON

The most modern plant, and one of the largest, in the china-making industry in the world is that headed by Joseph W. Stetson—the Stetson China Company, headquartered at

Lincoln. Though the company was founded by Mr. Stetson's uncle, it was Mr. Stetson who conceived the ideas and directed the modernization which has put the business into a leading place among firms of its kind in the world. In 1950 he was completing plans which would lead eventually to the employment of 1000 persons by the business and would extend the market, for many years already international in scope.

Mr. Stetson was born in Chicago on August 1, 1902, and began his education in the Windy City. For a time he went to school in California but returned to finish high school in his native community. His uncle had started the Stetson China Company in January, 1919, in Chicago. It was not long afterward that the nephew went into the business at East Liverpool, Ohio, as a warehouseman earning \$18 a week. He returned to Chicago and became a salesman for the firm. Six months later he persuaded his uncle to let him take the company into a jobbing business. This resulted in Joseph Stetson's renting a store in Chicago and buying a car of merchandise, which he sold and delivered to the F. W. Woolworth Company, the five-and-ten chain. His second car he sold to the Butler Company. At about this time the uncle became ill, and the nephew found it necessary to take over management of the entire Stetson China Company. Three years later he opened a larger plant and began the decoration of china. Eight years after that he put a still larger plant into operation. At the death of the uncle in 1931, Mr. Stetson moved the business into a plant still larger and modernized the business with entirely new equipment. In 1946, he purchased the old Illinois China Company plant in Lincoln, and began at once to expand further, introducing a modernization program that eventually cost the business \$3,000,000. The products are shipped into all corners of the United States, South America, the Philippines, Alaska and the Territory of Hawaii. The plant makes the most modern American china designs, catering to the middle bracket income families. Under Mr. Stetson's plans there will be a new line of China for those in top income brackets. He now employs about 600 persons. Soon, he will employ 800, then 1000. The business is known throughout the world, being its most modern and one of its largest in the industrial china field. Wherever the business operations extend, there Mr. Stetson's name is well known and revered.

On June 21, 1931, Mr. Stetson married

Ann Mardell. They have three children—Evellette Stetson, born in 1934; Philip, born in 1936, and Gary, born in 1943.

Mr. Stetson is a member of the Blue Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and of the South Side Congregation of Chicago. He may properly be described not only as a first citizen of Lincoln but of Illinois.

JAMES HENRY CONLEY

When James Henry Conley first went to work as a plumber, he drew only thirty-five cents an hour. Today, Mr. Conley is one of the leading master plumbers of Southern Illinois—the head of a firm which in 1949 and 1950 was doing the entire plumbing and heating installations at the New Marion Township High School and which has to its credit similar jobs in other public, commercial and residential structures. The firm is J. H. Conley and Sons of Marion, with Mr. Conley's three sons, Billy, Dennis and Emil, associated with him. Mr. Conley is well known throughout the "Egyptian" territory.

Born in Williamson County on August 8, 1903, Mr. Conley is the son of Hardy Wesley and Emma (Frey) Conley, both also natives of that county. He attended the public schools of the county and worked on the family farm with his father until he reached adulthood. When he left the farm, Mr. Conley went to work for the Marion and Eastern Railroad, later taken over by the Missouri Pacific, as a boilermaker's helper. Within three years he had advanced to night roundhouse foreman. In 1925, he resigned from the Missouri Pacific to become an apprentice plumber for C. C. Stone of Marion. He worked with Mr. Stone until 1930, when he went to Cairo as a journeyman plumber. On the death of Mr. Stone in August, 1945, Mr. Conley returned to Marion and bought the Stone plumbing business, and this he now operates as J. H. Conley and Sons, with headquarters at 900 N. State Street, Marion. His wife keeps the books. In addition to doing contracting work, Mr. Conley carries a full line of plumbing supplies and fixtures for sale. When he first established the business under the Conley name, Mr. Conley and one son and Mrs. Conley operated it. The next year, 1946, Mr. Conley hired two men, in 1948 three more men and in 1949 still another man. Today, nine men are employed in the business. The firm's plumbing contract for the new Marion Township High School totaled more than \$60,000. Four fully-equipped plumbing trucks are used in the business.



JAMES HENRY CONLEY

On November 15, 1924, Mr. Conley married Elizabeth Winstead, the daughter of James and Emily Winstead of Marion. Besides the three sons, there is a daughter, Phyllis Ann, who was born on November 9, 1937. The sons' birth dates are as follows: Billy, April 28, 1927; Dennis, March 11, 1929; Emil, January 23, 1931. The family worships in the Episcopal Church, and both Mr. Conley and one of the sons are lay readers. When he was in Cairo, Mr. Conley was on the vestry of the Church of the Redeemer, was superintendent of the church school and acted as Scoutmaster. Mr. Conley has served for two years as president of the Egyptian Master Plumbers and Heating Contractors Association. He is also active in the National Association of Master Plumbers and the Illinois Master Plumbers Association. Through all his activities he has aided in the development of Southern Illinois.

OLIVER J. KELLER

For years one of the outstanding newspaper editors and executives in the nation, Oliver J. Keller of Springfield has occupied a similar position in the field of radio broadcasting since 1946. He is president of WTAX, Inc., operating Radio Station WTAX in Springfield, the Columbia Broadcasting affiliate in the capital. This station has developed tremendous prestige and influence under Mr. Keller's guidance and he himself has achieved leadership not only in the broadcast world but in the Springfield Territory.

Born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on February 9, 1898, Mr. Keller is the son of William H. and Anna (Dickey) Keller. Following his graduation from the Yeates School in Lancaster in 1914, he attended Williams College in Massachusetts, graduating in 1918 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. From college Mr. Keller went into the United States Army, commissioned a Second Lieutenant, and was attached to what then constituted the Air Forces in the role of observer. Following his discharge from the armed forces, Mr. Keller became a reporter and copy reader on the Lancaster Examiner. He was made associate editor of the paper within the year, 1919. In 1920, he was advanced to editor, and this post he held until he was made general manager of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1927. In 1928, the duties of editor and vice-president of the Post-Gazette were added to his other responsibilities and in 1941 he was elevated to the presidency. He remained until 1946, when he

came to Illinois to assume the presidency and general managership of Radio Station WTAX in Springfield. This CBS affiliate, which has grown tremendously under Mr. Keller's direction, broadcasts on a wavelength of 1240 kilocycles. Operating on unlimited time, it began by broadcasting with 100 watts of power, but in 1949 the Federal Communications Commission authorized its use of 250 watts. WTAX, Inc., operates both WTAX-AM and WTAX-FM. In May, 1948, a new and modern broadcasting structure was erected and occupied by the station. Twenty-two persons are employed under Mr. Keller.

Mr. Keller married Rosalind Lodge Thomas in St. Louis, Missouri, on November 5, 1920. They have two sons—Daniel S. Keller and Oliver J. Keller, Jr.

ILLINOIS COMMERCIAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

Illinois Commercial Telephone Company is the largest of the independent telephone companies operating in the State of Illinois. In the telephone industry, the so-called independent companies are those which are neither owned nor controlled by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company or any other Bell System company.

Many of the smaller independent companies are locally owned and provide telephone service in only one or two communities of the State. There are, however, several comparatively large independent companies and Illinois Commercial Telephone Company, which is the subject of this sketch, operates 221 exchanges and serves more than 600 communities.

Illinois Commercial was incorporated on February 3, 1928, and has the distinction of having outgrown a Wisconsin company, organized in 1920, from which it stemmed.

Prior to the incorporation of Illinois Commercial in 1928, the Commonwealth Telephone Company in Wisconsin had controlled the Belvidere Telephone Company and the Boone County Rural Telephone Company through capital stock ownership. The officials of Commonwealth, however, deemed it advisable to organize an Illinois company to take over the operations of the Belvidere and Boone County companies and to acquire other Illinois independent telephone properties which were available.

Illinois Commercial is controlled by General Telephone Corporation, with headquarters in New York City, which is the largest of the holding companies in the independent

telephone industry. General Telephone Corporation owns all of the outstanding common stock of Illinois Commercial in the amount of \$4,487,100; Illinois Commercial's \$4.75 cumulative preferred stock on the amount of \$2,000,100 is in the hands of the public, with a substantial amount of it held by residents of Illinois; and the Company's bonds in the amount of \$8,000,000 are owned by 12 well-known insurance companies.

Illinois Commercial operates in 67 of the 102 counties in the State. Although the holdings of the Company are largely diversified throughout the area of the State, the most concentrated operations are in the southern and east central portions. All of the Company's central offices are connected with the long distance or toll line facilities operated by Bell System companies and other independent companies.

Among the larger cities served by the Company are Belvidere, Benton, Carbondale, DuQuoin, Harrisburg, Herrin, Kewanee, Lawrenceville, Lincoln, Macomb, Marion, Mendota, Monmouth, Mount Carmel, Murphysboro, Olney, Robinson and West Frankfort.

The counties in which the Company renders service are as follows: Bond, Boone, Bureau, Calhoun, Champaign, Clay, Crawford, DeKalb, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Franklin, Fulton, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Kankakee, LaSalle, Lawrence, Lee, Livingston, Logan, McDonough, McHenry, McLean, Macon, Macoupin, Madison, Marshall, Mason, Massac, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Ogle, Peoria, Perry, Piatt, Pike, Pope, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Richland, Saline, Sangamon, Stark, Tazewell, Union, Vermilion, Wabash, Warren, Wayne, White, Williamson, Winnebago, Woodford.

HARRY WARDELL PIKE

As vice-president and treasurer of the Illinois Commercial Telephone Company, with headquarters at Springfield, Harry Wardell Pike has become a prominent figure in Illinois. He has been in public utility work for many years, and has had experience in virtually every phase of such work.

Mr. Pike was born at Marysville, Iowa, on May 17, 1893, the son of William Clinton Pike, a native of Indiana who was a harness and leather goods merchant, and Jane (Ulsh) Pike, a native of Iowa. H. W. Pike began his education at Osceola, Nebraska. After he

was graduated from high school, he attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and took his degree in the College of Business Administration. Later he was a graduate student in business statistics and accounting at Columbia University, New York, and in auditing at New York University. For two years Mr. Pike was an instructor in economics at the University of Nebraska. Then he took a commercial engineering course with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, after which he was in charge of fundamental toll rate studies of that concern in New York. In World War I, he spent a year and one-half as disbursing officer in the United States Army. A year as accountant with a firm of certified public accountants followed, then his two years on the Nebraska faculty. From there he went to the office of assistant secretary of the Lincoln Traction Company, Lincoln, Nebraska, where he was in charge of rate matters and accounting for street railway, electric and district heating utilities for two years. Subsequently, he was auditor and office manager of the Central State Power and Light Company, at Davenport, Iowa, in charge of accounting for electric, telephone, water and natural gas utilities for three years. Since leaving the Iowa concern Mr. Pike has been with the Illinois Commercial Telephone Company. For two years he was general auditor and for another two years general commercial engineer. He held the post of general commercial superintendent for five years and that of general rates and tariffs engineer eight years. In April, 1945, Mr. Pike, was elected vice-president and in January, 1949, vice-president and treasurer.

Mr. Pike married Edna Catherine Hubbell at York, Nebraska, on July 16, 1923. They have two sons—Wardell H. Pike, born at Lincoln, Nebraska, on July 17, 1925, educated at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, who in World War II was overseas with General Patton's Army; and William Barsley Pike, born at Madison, Wisconsin, on April 5, 1937.

Mr. Pike, who, with his family, worships in the First Methodist Church of Springfield, is a member of various Masonic bodies, including the Blue Lodge and the Springfield Consistory of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. His hobby is photography. In the years he has been with the telephone company at Springfield, it has grown in volume and in quality of service it gives its numerous subscribers, and he has become a valuable citizen of the capital.



JOHN MAURICE CONNOR, A.B., LL.B.

WALTER O. TRETIN

A professional engineer, Walter O. Tretin of Springfield has made a reputation in the public utility field, especially the telephone, in both the United States and Canada. He is at present vice-president and chief engineer of the Illinois Commercial Telephone Company, with headquarters in Springfield.

Born on April 22, 1890, at Appleton, Wisconsin, Mr. Tretin was educated in electricity and electrical engineering at the Mechanic Arts School, St. Paul, Minnesota, and the American School of Correspondence of Chicago, as well as in the Canadian Army Signal Corp, with which he served in World War I and in which he took courses in telephone and telegraph engineering. He is registered with the Wisconsin State Board of Architects and Professional Engineers as a Professional Engineer.

Mr. Tretin's first experience was with the Tri-State Telephone and Telegraph Company at St. Paul, where he remained three years. After that he was employed by the Alberta Government Telephones, at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in general plant work. His two-and-one-half-year World War I service with the Canadian Signal Corps followed. After the war, he became purchasing agent for the Albert Government Telephones and two years later was promoted to construction engineer. Finally returning to the states, Mr. Tretin accepted the post of plant superintendent of the Central Carolina Telephone Company, Southern Pines, North Carolina, which he held for one and one-half years. In his first six years with the Illinois Commercial Telephone Company, his next utility, Mr. Tretin was general plant engineer. Then, for seven years, he was assistant to the general plant superintendent. For one year he was assistant chief engineer and for three years he was chief engineer before being made vice-president and chief engineer. He assumed the vice-presidency on January 1, 1949. He has been responsible for the development of the company's engineering practices and construction and maintenance standards and their correct application to the construction and maintenance of all classes of plants operated by the company and he is now additionally responsible for the co-ordination of operations.

Mr. Tretin married Gladys Mary Davies at Edmonton, and they are the parents of two children—Lorna, now Mrs. Robert Willding and living at Dallas, Texas, and the mother of Stephen Willding, born in 1947 and Linda

Ann Willding, born in 1950; and Ray Tretin, who in 1950 was completing his education at the University of Wisconsin.

Mr. Tretin is a member of the Telephone Pioneers Association, the Sangamo Club of Springfield and engineering organizations. His recreational interests range from hunting to wild flower gardening and woodworking. In participating in the program of developing the telephone company, Mr. Tretin has contributed to civic growth and welfare.

JOHN MAURICE CONNOR, A.B., LL.B.

John Maurice Connor is a prominent figure throughout Douglas County. He was once a school administrator, an executive of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp and a candidate for the bench in Cumberland County. In World War II he served as an officer with the armored forces.

Mr. Connor was born at Colorado Springs, Colorado, on February 8, 1907, the son of John Richard and Donna (Flannery) Connor. His father, a merchant, railroad conductor and a political leader who was a candidate for County Clerk of Cumberland County, died in 1909 at the age of thirty-six.

Mr. Connor was graduated from high school at Greenup, Cumberland County, in 1925 and then attended the University of Illinois, from which he holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws. In 1929, due to the depression, he left school to become principal of the high school and superintendent of the grades at Jewett, Cumberland County. He then returned to his own education in 1930, receiving his degrees three years later. A position as second in command of a C. C. C. camp at Springfield followed, and it was while he was there that he received the nomination for the post of County Judge of Cumberland County. He defeated his opponent for the Democratic nomination by more than three to one, but lost by ninety-six votes in the election.

On January 23, 1933, when he was still in Springfield with the C. C. C., Mr. Connor married Thelma E. Harshbarger, the daughter of Harry H. and Maude E. Harshbarger. The ceremony took place at Petersburg. Salutatorian of Arcola High School, Class of 1928, Mrs. Connor was one of seven considered for valedictorian of the University of Illinois, from which she was graduated in education with highest honors in mathematics. Two of her brothers also graduated with honors from the university. After graduation, Mrs. Con-

nor spent a year at Illinois Commercial College and then became a commercial teacher at Williamsville High School. Mr. and Mrs. Connor have six children—Barbara Jean, Joyce Maudonna, Virginia Lee, Mary Linda, John Maurice, Jr., and William Henry. The family resides at 2 South Locust Street, Arcola, and worships in the Methodist Church, in which Mr. Connor is a trustee and former Men's Bible teacher.

After the Cumberland County election in 1933, Mr. Connor moved to his wife's home town, Arcola, because there were no lawyers there and opportunity beckoned. He practiced there until the war. In 1938 he was nominated as Democratic candidate for County Judge of Douglas County. On March 31, 1941, he entered the service with the rank of Captain, having been with the R.O.T.C. at the University of Illinois. He was commanding officer of Company H, 13th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, a light tank company. Later he was intelligence officer of Company H, 13th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, a light tank company. Later he was intelligence officer for the 13th and then intelligence officer for the Armored Force School, and also postal officer. In September, 1942, he was promoted to Major. After a tactics course, he was transferred as executive officer to the 3rd Battalion, 16th Armored Division, subsequently being made intelligence officer of the 5th Armored Regiment. For a time afterward he was executive officer of Division Trains of the 20th Armored Division and commanding officer of the band. Following his separation from the service in November, 1945, he returned to Arcola and his law practice.

He has since made a reputation not only at the bar but in civic work. He was commander of the Douglas County American Legion in 1947. In 1937 he had organized a group to promote Boy Scouting and was Scoutmaster until entering the Army. Since the war he has been treasurer of the pack committee of the Cub Scouts. He is a member of the Commercial Law League, Illinois Bar Association and the Masonic order. While at the University of Illinois Mr. Connor was the light heavy weight boxing champion of the university 1929-1930; he was the boxing runner-up in 1933 and was also the wrestling runner-up in 1933. He was one of ten men of the university who were on the rifle team which was the championship team of that year, 1928. Mr. Connor is a member of the Sigma Delta Kappa law fraternity.

Also, he is active in the Lions Club of Arcola, of which he is a charter member, and in the Arcola Association of Commerce. His chief recreation is volley ball, but his hobby is his children, "trying to train them in the way they should go, and helping them to solve their problems." He has proved himself an invaluable citizen of his "wife's home town."

ROBERT LAWRENCE CHAMBERS

It is safe to say that everyone in Bloomington and McLean County knows Robert Lawrence Chambers in person or by reputation and that he is one of the most popular and one of the most prominent citizens of that progressive city, for Mr. Chambers' activities touch virtually on the life of every individual. As active partner in H. L. Chambers and Son—"The House of a Million Items"—Mr. Chambers buys, sells or trades merchandise used in homes, offices, stores, industrial plants, public institutions, churches, repair shops and practically all other places. As a citizen active in the community, he participates in all important events and projects, and is especially well known in work on behalf of boys, in civic organization programs and in church and fraternal circles, not to mention the recreational field.

Born on September 22, 1914, at Bloomington, Mr. Chambers is the son of Harvey Lawrence and Nellie Cecil (Fenton) Chambers. His father, a native of Rantoul, Illinois, founded the business now called H. L. Chambers and Son in 1924. He is still active in this enterprise and in the community's affairs. Nellie Fenton Chambers was born in Montezuma, Indiana. Robert L. Chambers was educated in Bloomington's elementary and high schools. In 1932, before he was eighteen, he went into his father's business and soon was a well known figure, commercially and civically. In 1946, he became his father's partner, and in this capacity continues in the business, which he has helped to make one of the best known of its kind in Illinois. The "House of a Million Items," as the store is known, operates not merely in McLean County but in all of the United States and Canada. The buying, selling and trading is in such merchandise as store and office fixtures, household equipment, machinery and tools, electrical appliances. The business is located at 336 South Main Street, Bloomington.

Robert Lawrence Chambers married Vivian Jane Freeman, also a native of Bloomington, on November 20, 1938. Mrs. Chambers is the daughter of Litney Caleb and Emma (Yoder)



H. L. CHAMBERS



ROBERT LAWRENCE CHAMBERS

Freeman. Her father, who was born in Bloomington and was a chiropractor, died in 1947; her mother, a native of Danvers, McLean County, died in 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Chambers have three children—Lawrence Nathan Chambers, who was born on May 4, 1941; Linda Jo Chambers, born on October 29, 1942, and Laura Lee Chambers, born on February 5, 1947. Mr. and Mrs. Chambers and their children reside at 711 East Taylor Street, Bloomington. They worship in the First Baptist Church of that city.

Mr. Chambers is a member of the board of trustees of the church. He is equally prominent in the lay community. He has worked for twenty-three consecutive years in the Boy Scouts of America and is a member of the board of directors of the Junior Association of Commerce of Bloomington. He is now a member of the Bloomington Association of Commerce, the Refrigeration Engineering Society, the Masonic Order, Order of DeMolay, Order of the Eastern Star, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Sportsman's Club of Bloomington, the Bloomington Skeet and Trap Shooting Club, and the National Rifle Association and Camera Club. His hobbies include photography and model railroading, while his outdoor recreations embrace motor boating, target shooting and motorcycling. He is highly admired in the community and lends his influence to all praiseworthy and welfare programs.

LLEWELLYN JAMES WILSON

When Llewellyn James Wilson went to work for the Shidler Construction Material Company at Kankakee, his position was that of bookkeeper. Within three years he was secretary and treasurer and manager of the company. These are the offices he occupies today in the well-known construction materials concern, founded three decades ago. Mr. Wilson is active not only in the business life of Kankakee, but also in its civic affairs.

He was born at Gardner, in Grundy County, the son of James S. and Anna C. (Anderson) Wilson. His father, who was born at Clark City, Illinois, is now a farmer at Gardner. The mother is also a native of Gardner. Llewellyn Wilson, who is the only child of his parents, was educated in the grade and high schools at Gardner and at the Gallagher Business College in Kankakee. In June, 1936, when he was graduated from the business college, he entered the employ of the Shidler Construction Company as bookkeeper. In 1939, he assumed the offices of secretary,

treasurer and manager which he occupies today. The company was founded by Frank Shidler and Morgan J. Jackson in 1919. In 1929 Mr. Shidler formed the Triangle Construction Company. The two partners, Mr. Shidler and Mr. Jackson, dissolved their original partnership and jointly incorporated the two concerns. Mr. Shidler died in 1935 and his son, Leslie Shidler, took over. Today Mr. Jackson's widow, Mrs. Eleanor Jackson, and her two sons, Richard M. and Donald J. Jackson, control the companies.

On November 25, 1936, Mr. Wilson, who had already begun making his influence felt in the Shidler Construction Company and who since assuming the managership has guided it to its present success, married Ina S. Christenson, who is another native of Gardner. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have three children—Lou Ann Wilson, born on June 6, 1941, and James and Jack Wilson, twins, born on October 23, 1943. Mrs. Wilson is active in the work of the Methodist Church. Mr. Wilson, also a member of that church, belongs, in addition, to the Kankakee Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Kankakee Young Men's Christian Association. His office address is 608 Osborn Avenue, Kankakee. As executive of a construction materials concern, he is participating on a large scale in the postwar development of Kankakee and in the great construction program of housing and other structures needed to maintain the nation's equilibrium and welfare.

HON. JOSEPH FARRIS

Springfield will long remember the industrialist and public servant who did so much to build the capital into its present greatness not only as the seat of Illinois' government but also as a place which business men find profitable and home folk find attractive as a residential and recreational center. This great man is the late Joseph Farris, Sr., known for many years as "The Little Giant" of the Second Ward. He was the founder of the business known as the Farris Furnace Company and served the city as an Alderman. Three of his sons have also had a hand in building this company and in aiding the build-a-better-Springfield program—George, the late Charles and Joseph Farris, II. The latter now is actively in charge of the business, and is one of the foremost citizens of the capital.

The late Joseph Farris, was born in Logansport, Indiana, on October 22, 1863, and, coming to Illinois in his youth, settled in Springfield. There he entered the employ of

Joseph Lamb, owner of the Aetna Foundry. Here he learned the foundry business and here he remained until the owner retired. Then, in January, 1898, Joseph Farris, Sr., founded the Capitol Foundry. The business grew rapidly. In 1915, Mr. Farris established the Farris Furnace Company, absorbing the Capitol Foundry into it. At that time he began the manufacture of home furnaces and other heating equipment so popular with householders and business men today. In the course of his final years, Mr. Farris took into the business his three sons. George Farris, the older son, is virtually retired and Charles Farris is deceased. Joseph Farris, II, as general manager, continues building the firm. He now has the assistance of his son, Joseph Farris, III, who, like the others of the family, is developing a reputation in the furnace world and in the civic and social life of Springfield.

Joseph Farris, II, was born in Springfield on November 8, 1896. He married Louise Houston on April 10, 1915, and has four children. The oldest of these is Joseph Farris, III, the others being, in the order of their birth, Robert, Kenneth and Mary Ellen Farris. Joseph Farris, II, joined his father in business when he was fourteen years old. The father was then operating the foundry, and he participated in the program of converting the business and plant to the making of home furnaces and other heating equipment.

Joseph Farris was so interested in the development of the city that he gave much time to public affairs, giving such leadership as to become famed as "The Little Giant" of the Second Ward. He represented that ward on the City Board of Aldermen several times. He died on February 7, 1928, at the age of sixty-four, and his name is honored today by a citizenry who gratefully remember the great contribution he made to its prosperity and growth. Similarly honored are the sons and grandsons who have done their share to develop a great city and industry.

LAWRENCE IRVING FULTON

When Lawrence Irving Fulton began driving a truck for the Mattoon Ice Cream and Dairy Company at Mattoon in 1923, little did he know that someday he would be manager for a big corporation, a leader in the food industry that would someday take over the Mattoon firm. But that is what happened and since 1930 Mr. Fulton has been the chief executive of the Mattoon Division of the Beatrice Foods Company, the man credited with

the tremendous growth in popularity of Meadow Gold dairy products in a vast portion of Illinois. Mr. Fulton is not only a noted figure in the dairy industry but is well known in the real estate business, in agriculture in general, financing operations and in endeavors aimed at development of Coles County.

Mr. Fulton is a native of Coles County, having been born there on April 2, 1894. His father, a farmer, was John W. Fulton, born at Burlington, Iowa. He settled in Coles County in 1872, engaging in farming four miles west of Mattoon. The dairyman's mother was the former Sarah E. Collier.

After Lawrence Fulton completed his education in the rural schools of Coles County, he engaged in farming. In 1922 he moved into Mattoon from the farm and started working as an independent ditching contractor.

In 1923 he took a job driving a truck for the Mattoon Ice Cream and Dairy Company. Four years later he was promoted to plant superintendent and in 1930 was made manager of the Mattoon Ice Cream Company, successor to the Mattoon Ice Cream and Dairy Company. In 1928 the Beatrice Foods Company had acquired the business of the Mattoon company and in 1930 Mr. Fulton was made manager of the Mattoon Division of Beatrice Foods Company, and has since retained that position. Under his management the Mattoon plant has grown from seven employees in 1930 to 105 in 1949, of whom ten are in the branch plant at Vandalia and thirteen in the branch plant in Charleston. The Mattoon territory, headed by Mr. Fulton, is now servicing Meadow Gold dairy products through south central Illinois from Charleston east to within 25 miles of St. Louis west.

On January 8, 1921, about a year before Mr. Fulton left the farm and moved into Mattoon, he married Alice Dora Anderson, the daughter of Jon W. and Ora Anderson. A school teacher who was later office manager of the Beatrice Foods Company in Mattoon, Mrs. Alice Fulton died in 1947. She was belonged to the Mattoon Business and Professional Women's Club, was past worthy matron of the Coles and Moultrie County Farm Bureaus, tron of the Mattoon Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and was also active in the White Shrine and the Methodist Church and its societies. In 1949 Mr. Fulton married Mrs. Harriet Moody Scott, the daughter of John and Emily Moody. The second Mrs. Fulton is also prominent in the area. She is owner and manager of a farm and is a member of the Coles County Home Bureau, the Mattoon



LAWRENCE IRVING FULTON

Coles County Home Bureau, the Mattoon Women's Club and the Methodist Church. Mr. Fulton also worships at the Methodist Church. He and his wife reside at 1100 South Fifteenth Street, in Mattoon.

Aside from the dairy industry and real estate, Mr. Fulton is interested in the Mattoon Federal Savings and Loan Association of which he is a director. He is a former member of the Coles County Agricultural Industrial Committee. He also belongs to the Mattoon Association of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Mattoon, the Masonic Lodge in Mattoon; the Mattoon Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, of which he is a past worthy patron; the White Shrine, in which he is past watchman of shepherds, and the Mattoon Sportsman's Club, of which he is a former vice-president. It has been written of Mr. Fulton that he is a "family man who likes home life. He especially has a deep feeling, understanding and interest in all his employees and friends which, mixed with his keen business acumen, makes a highly successful combination. He has the faculty of driving straight to the core of any subject under discussion and for that reason is an interesting conversationalist. He possesses a quiet, good humor which is the basis of his good disposition."

JAMES HOWARD VAUGHN

A successful operator in the beverage bottling and distribution business in the Logan County area, James Howard Vaughn of Lincoln is also one of the outstanding citizens of that region, serving his community in public affairs and in business and other organizations. An officer of World War II, he is also active in veterans' affairs.

Mr. Vaughn was born in Lincoln on July 15, 1910, the son of the late Howard Vaughn, who was also a beverage distributor, and Edna (Gilson) Vaughn. He was one of two children born to his parents, having had a sister, Clyta, now deceased. Howard Vaughn, the father, was born on an Illinois farm in July, 1876. Always interested in horses, he spent several years touring from county fair to county fair, with race horses. In his youth he worked on farms. In the early part of the twentieth century, he established himself in Lincoln, purchasing a small soft-drink bottling company. Soon afterward, he acquired the Coca-Cola bottling franchise. To this he added the distributorship in Logan County for Reisch beer. This was long before the beginning of the Prohibition era, and he was one of the few beer distributors in this part

of the country. For more than twenty-five years Howard Vaughn was also a wholesale candy distributor. He disposed of the candy business in 1947, two years before his death, because he needed additional warehouse space for his beer and soft-drink business. James H. Vaughn's mother was also a native Illinoisan.

James Vaughn received his early education in the grade and high schools of Lincoln. In 1932, he was graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. In addition to liberal arts courses, he had also taken commercial and law courses. Upon leaving the university, Mr. Vaughn joined his father in the Coca-Cola and beer business. In 1941, he became a full partner of his father's and since his father's death on September 29, 1949, he has been in complete charge of the enterprise. Mr. Vaughn employs nine persons and operates six delivery trucks. His business covers most of Logan County.

Mr. Vaughn married Virginia Loomis of LaGrange, Cook County, on June 16, 1934. They have three daughters—Sara Jean Vaughn, born in 1936; Susan Vaughn, born in 1939, and Mary Elizabeth Vaughn, born in 1947.

Mr. Vaughn took time out from his business in World War II to serve with the United States Navy. He was in the service from 1944 to 1946, and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Senior Grade. He saw battle action in the Pacific Theater of Operations. Today he is active in the Lincoln Posts of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, as well as the Amvets. His standing in the community and interest in law enforcement and crime prevention have brought him appointment to the Lincoln City Police Commission. In 1950 he was president of the Rotary Club of Lincoln and he was also a member of the board of directors of the Lincoln Association of Commerce. In addition, he belongs to the Lincoln Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and Sigma Chi Fraternity. His hobby is work—work in his business as well as work in the community—and this perhaps explains not only his success but his popularity.

FRANK LOUIS ROCHE

Slim and Trim Frocks, Inc., is the intriguing and whimsical name of a Bloomington manufacturing concern whose products "cover" the United States—or at least cover, in cotton work dresses, many of the women of the United States. The founder and president of

this company is a man long experienced in the apparel manufacturing field and a leading personality in that field and his community—Frank Louis Roche.

Mr. Roche was born on January 2, 1908, at Decatur, the community in which he still makes his home and where he still does business. His parents were Richard Frank Roche, a native of Ivesdale, Champaign County, and an engineer who died in 1942, and Flora Temple (Cook) Roche, a native of Circleville, Ohio, who died in 1949.

Frank L. Roche received his academic education in the elementary and high schools of Decatur and then took a general course in business administration at LaSalle and Brown's Business College, Decatur. For twenty-one years after completing his education he was with the Home Manufacturing Company of Decatur and at the time he left late in 1944 he was not only plant superintendent but also secretary of the corporation. He resigned to organize his own business. In January, 1945, he established his present enterprise, but he first called it the Frank L. Roche Company and its headquarters were Decatur. After six months of operation, however, Mr. Roche changed the name to Slim and Trim Frocks, Inc., and opened up a plant in Bloomington. He has become one of the large employers in McLean County and an outstanding figure in the entire region. His payroll totals 187 and, as indicated before, the cotton work dresses made for women in the Bloomington and Decatur plants are sold in all parts of the United States.

On July 30, 1934, at Decatur, Mr. Roche married Hattie Besalski, a native of Germany, who at an early age came to the United States and Illinois with her parents, William Besalski, a moulder, and Caroline (Schwartz) Besalski, both also, of course, natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Roche are the parents of three children—Joan Kay Roche, who was born on July 30, 1937; Patsy Rae Roche, born on January 28, 1939, and Frances Louise Roche, born on April 17, 1943. The family home, at Decatur, bears the post office address of R.F.D. No. 4, Box 17. Both Mr. and Mrs. Roche, with their children, worship in the Lutheran Church.

Mr. Roche is active in the civic life of both Decatur and Bloomington. He is a member of such organizations as the Decatur Association of Commerce, the Bloomington Association of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club of Decatur and the Young Men's Business Club of Bloomington. He is contributing to the eco-

nomie, industrial and civic welfare of the entire region.

CARL HARDING OZEE

It is problematical whether anyone in the transportation industry anywhere in the United States has not heard of Carl Harding Ozee of Mattoon. President of the Hayes Freight Lines and of Ozee Terminals, Inc., both headquartered in Mattoon, Mr. Ozee is a leader in motor freight and trucking organizations in the State and nation. He is also interested in hotel management and outside the business world has taken such an active part in city and county public affairs as to have served Mattoon as Mayor and Coles County as a member of the board of supervisors, and in World War II served the nation as a civilian advisor in the vital field of logistics, not to mention war financing efforts in both World War I and World War II.

Born on a farm near Mattoon on June 10, 1883, Carl Harding Ozee is the son of H. M. (Mike) Ozee, who was also prominent in Coles County, and Georgia (Sawyer) Ozee. His father, born near Leavenworth, Indiana, on November 19, 1846, moved to the farm near Mattoon when he was sixteen, with his parents. Almost immediately he went to work for the Government in the horse hospital at Camp Grant, then near Mattoon. At the close of the Civil War he began farming and stock raising. He served as a school director, supervisor and highway commissioner in the county. Mrs. Ozee, educated at Lee's Academy, was a school teacher. Her parents were Charles and Martha Sawyer. She and H. M. Ozee were married on March 1, 1877.

C. H. Ozee attended the grade schools at Trilla and Mattoon and during vacations worked on the farm. On October 1, 1903, he began work as a clerk in the Mattoon Post Office, having previously taken the Civil Service examination. After a year in the post office, he was promoted to the Railway Mail Service, with which he served seven years. In 1911 Mr. Ozee became associated with George W. Hayes, then sole owner of Hayes Freight Lines, by purchasing a half interest in the business and assuming active management. The company was at the time a small enterprise with purely local activities grossing about \$8,000 a year. With the coming of hard surfaced roads and motor trucks, Mr. Ozee was able to develop the business until today it is one of the larger motor carriers of the nation, employing more than 2000 persons. The other company Mr. Ozee heads,



CARL HARDING OZEE

Ozee Terminals, Inc., furnishes terminal and other facilities to motor carriers. He is also on the board of directors of the U. S. Grant Hotel in Mattoon. He is a past president and current director of the Central Motor Freight Association and a director of the American Trucking Association and the Motor[®] Carrier Conference of Illinois.

On October 10, 1905, at Mattoon, Mr. Ozee married Rose Agnes Hayes, daughter of George W. and Florence Hayes. Mrs. Ozee has been active in the Parent-Teachers' Association, the Red Cross, the Federated Club, United Charities, the cancer and infantile paralysis fund raising campaigns and the Methodist Church. Three daughters have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ozee—Mrs. Marian G. Bock, wife of George W. Bock and mother of Mrs. Carleen Bock Icenogle, Jacquelin and Marlyn Bock; Mrs. Martha M. Bowen, wife of Harold G. Bowen and mother of Susan, Peter, Stephen and Marc Bowen; and Mrs. Margaret E. Daily, wife of Wayne L. Daily and mother of Linda, Carl and Martin Daily. The family home is at 501 South Sixteenth Street, Mattoon.

Mr. Ozee's daughters are stockholders and members of the boards of directors of Hayes Freight Lines and Ozee Terminals, Inc. Mr. Ozee, in addition to serving as County Supervisor and Mattoon's Mayor, has been an alderman in Mattoon. In World War II he was a special consultant to the Army Transportation Corps in the planning of highways and the movement of materials from Army base or shipside to the front lines. He is a charter member of the Rotary Club of Mattoon and of the Mattoon Association of Commerce. Actively identified with the Methodist Church since childhood, Mr. Ozee has served in virtually every position in the church and church school and is at present chairman of the board of trustees and member of the finance committee. He has always "taken an active part in politics with a definite Republican viewpoint." Mr. Ozee's principal hobby is traveling and, with Mrs. Ozee, he has visited the principal places in the United States, Mexico, Canada, South America and the West Indies. Physically he is the "rugged type, six feet one-half inch tall, weighing 210 pounds, with a mild disposition and a feeling for the common man."

JACK AUSTIN, B.Ed., LL.B.

Of growing importance and influence and prestige in Central Illinois is the law firm of Ryan and Austin, 1601 Broadway, Mattoon.

The younger member of this firm is Jack Austin, who, like his partner, is a native of Illinois. Mr. Austin, a veteran of World War II, is prominent in ex-servicemen's organizations, in banking and in civic enterprises in general, and is a popular citizen of Coles County.

Born in Decatur on December 26, 1914, Mr. Austin is the son of Charles O. and Olive E. (Peppers) Austin. Both his parents were born in Ashmore, another Coles County community. His mother is the daughter of William and Jane (Carter) Peppers. Jack Austin went through the elementary and high schools of Charleston, the county seat, and then entered Eastern Illinois State College at Charleston, in 1932. Four years later he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Education. For a time he taught school, but then, deciding to study law, matriculated at the University of Illinois in Urbana. In 1941 he took the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Admitted to the Illinois State Bar that year, Mr. Austin went on the staff of the legal department of the Gulf Refining Company immediately afterward. About six months later—on December 28, 1941—however, he went into the United States Army, and was attached to the Field Artillery Corps, in which he rose step by step to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He served as Field Artillery Combat Battalion Commander in England, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Czechoslovakia. Separated from the service as a Lieutenant Colonel in April, 1946, Mr. Austin returned to the legal staff of the Gulf Refining Company. Later in 1946, he resigned the oil company post and formed his partnership with Willis Pierce Ryan (q. v.), the well known member of the bar who is former Assistant State's Attorney for Coles County and is now serving as City Attorney of the City of Mattoon. Their firm, Ryan and Austin, has become one of the best known in Coles County. In addition to practicing law Mr. Austin serves as a member of the board of directors of the Ashmore State Bank at Ashmore. He was elected to the board in 1936.

On July 10, 1943, at Annapolis, Maryland, Mr. Austin married Rachel E. Lowery, the daughter of G. E. and Mary Lowery. They have one son, Jack Carter Austin, who was born on Christmas Day in 1944, and a baby daughter, Barbara Sue Austin, born March 2, 1950. The Austins reside at 107 Harrison Street, in Charleston, and worship at the Charleston Presbyterian Church, in which Mr. Austin is a deacon.

Mr. Austin, a Democrat, is active in the

Coles County Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, the American Bar Association and Phi Alpha Delta, the law fraternity. Also, he belongs to the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Kiwanis Club of Mattoon and the Masonic order. Golf is his favorite sport and photography is his hobby. He has won a position of great respect in the community.

JOHN LUKE JOHNSON

When John Luke Johnson of Marion first went to work in the ice business, it was in a comparatively primitive state, ice being made with steam power and drivers having to cut blocks for their customers with hatchets, saws and ice picks. Mr. Johnson is one of those who helped modernize the business, and he is now head of the Marion Ice and Coal Company of Marion, a concern with which he learned the business in the days when he was earning money with which to go to college. A leading figure in the ice business in Southern Illinois, he is well known in Marion and Williamson County for his interest in the general welfare.

Mr. Johnson was born at Brookport, Massac County, on May 23, 1903, the son of John L. and Mary P. (Conney) Johnson. His father, also born in Illinois, is in the insurance business in Marion. The ice industrialist began his schooling in Marion. In 1923 he was graduated from the Marion High School and for the next two years he worked in the local ice plant—the plant he now owns. In the semester of 1925-26, he attended the University of Illinois at Urbana, after which he returned to his ice plant job. In 1927-28 he studied at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, taking a general academic course. In the Spring of 1928 he again returned to his job with the ice company, and since then has been in the business continuously. Upon his return in 1928, he became a deliveryman, driving a horse and wagon. Since then he has been through every phase of the business, progressing up through storage engineer, platform man, chief operator and superintendent of the plant. He held the superintendency from 1938 to 1940. Then, in 1940, he took over the distribution end of the business, buying a fleet of trucks on which he employed twenty men. In 1945, in partnership with his wife, he took over the plant, buildings, grounds and all other phases of the business and today he and Mrs. Johnson operate the enterprise as the Marion Ice and Coal Company, of which Mr. Johnson is president and

general manager. He has discontinued the handling of coal and now, in addition to his large retail business, does a small wholesale business in ice. Twenty persons are employed in the plant. His machinery is modern in every respect, and the plant has a forty-ton daily capacity. Mr. Johnson operates eight trucks. Among his outside business interests is real estate. He owns a considerable amount of residential property.

Mrs. Johnson is the former Elsie Foster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Foster of Marion. The marriage took place on September 11, 1926, and five children have been born to the Johnsons—Robert Paul, James W., Carroll Ann, John Kenneth and Linda Lou. The family attends the Baptist Church.

Mr. Johnson is a member of the Marion Lodges, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and Loyal Order of Moose; the Marion Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles; the Masonic order, in which he holds the thirty-second degree, and the Marion Country Club, in which he is a former director. He is a Republican. Hunting and fishing are his hobbies. By giving Marion a modern ice plant and by participating in civic events, Mr. Johnson has been taking advantage of every opportunity to serve his native State.

SAUL (RED) YAFFE

The state's capital, Springfield, is the scene of the operations of a family which for years has contributed to the industrial and commercial growth of Sangamon County—the Yaffe. An outstanding member of this family, Saul Yaffe is a dominant figure in the H and I Shirt Laundry, one of the largest in its field in Springfield. He is also active in the community at large and among the Jewish people of the city.

Mr. Yaffe, known affectionately to relatives, friends, associates and customers as "Red," was born in Springfield on July 23, 1908, and was educated in that city's elementary and high schools. At the age of ten, when he was still in grade school, he began working in his leisure hours as a bread wrapper in a bakery. He did this and other after-school work until he was thirteen. Then he was employed as a clerk and repairman in a jewelry store for nine years. Subsequently, he moved to Chicago and for eight years drove a bakery truck there. In 1941, his two brothers-in-law, Harry and Isadore Ichkowsky, founded the H and I Laundry in Springfield. When Isadore Ichkowsky was drafted into the United States Army for World War II service,



JOHN LUKE JOHNSON

Saul Yaffe was asked to return to Springfield and take over one-half interest in the business. In June, 1942, Mr. Yaffe was able to comply, and since then has been active in the partnership.

The H and I Shirt Laundry began operations with one washer and one small shirt press. Soon another washer and another shirt press, both more modern, were purchased. Business grew so rapidly that part of the work had to be sent out to another small laundry. Shortly afterward, the partners bought out the other small laundry and moved its equipment to their own shop. In 1945, they bought their present building at 400 South Eleventh Street, in Springfield, and in December, 1948, erected an addition to it, installing additional modern equipment, most of which is new. The business has steadily increased until at the present time the enterprise is one of the leading shirt laundries in Springfield, doing work for many of the leading families. In 1946 a dry cleaning department was added. At this time Mr. Yaffe's brother-in-law, Isadore Ichkowsky, joined the partnership—in only the dry cleaning department—and he owns and operates his own trucks for pick-up and delivery service. Altogether, twenty-two girls and five men are employed in all the operations of the H and I Shirt Laundry.

Saul Yaffe married Ida Ichkowsky in Springfield on October 5, 1930. They have two children—Rita Rose, who was born in 1932, and Stanley S. Yaffe, who was born in 1935. The family worships in Temple B'nai Abraham, Springfield. "Red" Yaffe is known and respected throughout Springfield and Sangamon County.

O. LLOYD WELSH

Once a farmer and the official farm adviser to two of Illinois' counties, O. Lloyd Welsh is still in a business which serves the agricultural interest of the state, though also caring for the needs of the urban communities. He is president and general manager of the Prairie Lumber and Fuel Company at Bloomington, one of the best known enterprises in its field in Central Illinois, a firm handling feeds and fertilizer as well as lumber, coal and building materials. He is also vice-president of the F. S. and W. Cob Products Company of Bloomington, a firm dealing in processing corn cobs for industry. In the community at large Mr. Welsh, who is a veteran of World War I, is active in veterans' affairs and in all phases of civic life, in which he has long taken a leading role. He is also

an outstanding figure in McLean County's and Illinois' agricultural activities.

Mr. Welsh was born near Sciota, McDonough County, on June 29, 1899, the son of Henry Byron and Dora (Hauser) Welsh. Both his parents were also natives of Sciota. His father died in 1949, his mother in 1933. O. Lloyd Welsh began his education in the elementary schools near Sciota. He attended the Eureka College Academy, Iowa State College, Western Illinois State Teachers College, and then the University of Illinois, graduating in 1922 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Having begun life as a farmer, or at least as a farmer's son, Mr. Welsh returned to farming after taking his degree, and for eight years worked as a tiller of the soil. Then, for three years, he was farm adviser for Hancock County, with headquarters at the county seat, Carthage. This position he resigned to accept a place in the farm loan department of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company at Peoria, where he remained seven years. Five years as farm adviser for McLean County, with headquarters in Bloomington, followed. In 1947, Mr. Welsh assumed the presidency and general managership of the Prairie Lumber and Fuel Company and has since devoted himself to the further development of this large concern and to his many other interests, including the F. S. and W. Cob Products Company. The Prairie Lumber and Fuel Company of 901 E. Grove St., Bloomington, is a retail concern, dealing in lumber, coal, building materials, Purina feeds and fertilizer and operating in a territory with a twenty-five-mile radius of Bloomington. It employs fourteen men.

Mr. Welsh married Hazel Jury, a native of Washburn, Illinois, on June 16, 1921. She is the daughter of Frank O. Jury, also a native of Washburn and a farmer, and Margaret (Thompson) Jury, who was born in Rogersville, Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Welsh have three children—Lloyd Byron Welsh, who was born on October 26, 1922; Donald Leroy Welsh, born on April 20, 1925, and Phyllis Dorene Welsh, born on September 16, 1929. The family home is at 2106 East Taylor Street, Bloomington, and the family church is the First Christian of Bloomington.

Mr. Welsh is president and director of the Bloomington Association of Commerce and was president (1949) of the Kiwanis Club of Bloomington. He was also vice-president of the Bloomington-Normal Garden Club. He belongs to such other organizations as the Illinois Agricultural Association, the Illinois

Farm Managers Association, the McLean County Farm Bureau, the College Alumni Club of Bloomington, the American Legion, the Masonic fraternity and Bloomington Consistory. His hobby is flowers. He is a popular and effective member of the community.

ALSON W. MODERT, M.D.

One of the outstanding medical men of Southern Illinois is Dr. Alson W. Modert of Mount Vernon, in Jefferson County. A specialist in surgery and diagnostics, Dr. Modert is chief surgeon of the Modert Clinic in the Jefferson County seat. In the Officers Reserve Corps in World War I, Dr. Modert gave medical service under the Selective Service System in World War II. He has given considerable leadership to civic projects and to education at Mount Vernon and, in addition to his professional and civic activities, is an officer in two business corporations. Also, he is a leading figure in the Baptist Church.

Dr. Modert was born at Brunson, Michigan, in 1890, the son of P. M. and Louisa (Rider) Modert. His father, a native of Branch County, Michigan, was a builder and contractor and was the son of Peter Modert, who was born at Nuremberg, Germany. Louisa Rider Modert was a native of New York State who settled in Coldwater, Michigan, seat of Branch County, as a young girl. The future doctor received his early education in the public schools of Illinois. Following his graduation from high school, he went to Loyola University in Chicago, where he took both the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine, the latter in 1916. In 1916 and 1917 he was an intern at the Detroit City Hospital. Then he returned to Chicago to become associated with Dr. De Lee at the Chicago Lying-In Hospital. Since leaving Chicago, he has been a prominent figure in Southern Illinois. In the first ten years in this section, he was chief surgeon at the Union Hospital at West Frankfort. From 1929 through 1939 he was County Physician of Franklin County. In 1920, Dr. Modert established himself at Mount Vernon, founding the Modert Clinic in 1939. He has been its chief surgeon ever since. In World War II, he was examining surgeon in the Surgical Divisions of the Selective Service System and its Appeal Board. At present, he holds the offices of vice-president in the Tri-State Gas Corporation and the Sunderland Acceptance Corporation at Mount Vernon.

Dr. Modert married Eleanor Davis of Broughton, in Hamilton County, and two sons

and two daughters have been born to them—Dr. Jean Maximilian Modert, who was a Major in the United States Army Medical Corps in World War II, serving in the European Theater of Operations and later with the Army of Occupation in Japan and who married Reta Lemoine of Kansas City, Missouri; Dr. Alson W. Modert, Jr., who served as an x-ray specialist with the Naval Base Hospital at Oakland, California, in World War II and who married Betty Jo Schrader; Eleanor Maxine Modert, R. N., now chief nurse at the Modert Clinic and formerly at the Missouri Baptist Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, who served as a First Lieutenant with the Army Nurse Corps in the Pacific Theater of Operations in World War II; and Rosemary Modert, R. N., also of the Modert Clinic and formerly of the St. John's Hospital of Springfield, Illinois, who in World War II was a Cadet Nurse. The family, which lives at 1006 South Twelfth Street, Mount Vernon, worships in the Baptist Church. Dr. Modert, prominent in the church, has held various offices, including the presidency, in the Baptist Young Peoples Union and for more than five years taught in the Sunday School.

A lifelong Republican, Dr. Modert has been active in public projects. He was president of the Mount Vernon Public School Board for nine years, and he is a member of the American Medical Association, the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club and the Masonic order, including the Shrine. He has an enviable reputation as medical man and citizen.

HAROLD CLYDE JONES, LL.B.

An attorney representing banking institutions, railroads and other corporations, as well as numerous important individuals, Harold Clyde Jones of Tuscola has become one of the outstanding members of the Illinois bar. He is former State's Attorney for Douglas County and former corporation counsel for three other of Douglas County's cities. He is a landowner in the county and is interested in mining developments in the State of Arizona. His law firm is Nichols and Jones of Tuscola.

Born in Carlinville, Macoupin County, on December 15, 1907, Mr. Jones is the son of Samuel H. and Floy (Bonebrake) Jones. His father, a drainage contractor born in Osage County, Missouri, was of Welsh descent. The mother, also a Missourian by birth, was the daughter of W. S. and Mary Bonebrake. The attorney received his pre-legal education at



ALSON W. MODERT, M.D.

the University of Illinois, where he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1929. In February, 1932, the same university awarded him the degree of Bachelor of Laws, and in April, 1932, he was admitted to the Illinois State Bar. Mr. Jones' career began long before he became a lawyer, for, it being necessary for him to earn funds for all his expenses while attending school, he worked eight hours a day on jobs which added to the strenuousness of an existence which included earnest and assiduous study. After his admission to the bar, Mr. Jones practiced in Chicago a few months. In July, 1932, he moved to Villa Grove in Douglas County, where he opened his own office. In March, 1935, Mr. Jones became associated with the law firm of Cotton and Nichols (Robert F. Cotton-George E. Nichols), with offices in Tuscola, seat of Douglas County, and Paris, seat of Edgar County. On July 1, 1940, he and Mr. Nichols joined to form their present law firm, Nichols and Jones, with offices in Tuscola. H. J. McCown became an associate member of this firm in 1949. The firm represents the Newman Building and Loan Association, the Villa Grove Building and Loan Association, the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Tuscola, the Corn Belt Building and Loan Association of Tuscola; five of Douglas County's banks, and are the local attorneys for the Illinois Central Railroad, the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

On November 1, 1930, at LeRoy, McLean County, Mr. Jones married Lolita Hattie Woodward, the daughter of Clayton R. and Hattie (Mitchell) Woodward. Besides her social activities and work in the Methodist Church, Mrs. Jones is interested in house designing and interior decorating. Mr. and Mrs. Jones reside at 600 East South Line, Tuscola. Their winter home is Kings Ranch, Mesa, Arizona, in the general area of Mr. Jones' mining interests. Mr. Jones has three brothers and a sister—Paul G. Jones, who is a professor in the University of Illinois College of Engineering; Wayne S. Jones, attorney and member of the law firm of Dillavou and Jones of Paris; Walter L. Jones of Detroit, Michigan, and Mrs. Reba J. Shake of Morrisonville, Illinois. Two of the brothers, Paul and Wayne, like the Tuscola attorney, were also required to earn their entire way through school. Each did so and, in addition, was married while attending the university.

Harold C. Jones manages his farm land in Douglas County besides practicing law. In

1940, he became State's Attorney, an office he held for two terms, until 1948; he did not run for re-election. Also, he was corporation counsel for Newman, Villa Grove and Arcola, all in Douglas County. He is a member of Villa Grove Lodge, No. 885, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Tuscola Chapter, No. 66, Royal Arch Masons; the Tri-City Country Club; the Illinois State Bar Association; the American Legion; and past member of the Villa Grove Rotary Club, of which he was a former president. His membership in the American Legion derives from his Army service in World War II. Mr. Jones entered the Army in 1943, as a private and emerged in 1946 as a First Lieutenant. He was assigned at first to the Anti-Aircraft Division, Coast Artillery, and was trained as a radar operator. Later, he was selected for Judge-Advocate General School and after completion of his training was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Judge-Advocate General's Department and assigned to the Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes Division. Subsequently, he was appointed real estate claims officer for the Great Lakes Division and the Sixth Service Command. Afterward, he was promoted to Chief of Acquisition Branch for Real Estate for the GLD and 6th S. C. Mr. Jones' political affiliation is with the Republican Party. He has traveled extensively throughout the United States and is a student of Hindu and Chinese philosophy. Oil painting is another hobby and still another is amateur magic and sleight-of-hand. Five feet ten inches tall, weighing 165 pounds with dark hair, brown eyes, and ruddy complexion, Mr. Jones is also described as of "amiable and happy disposition." Douglas County counts him among its most valuable and popular citizens.

JAMES RANSOM HOLBERT, Ph.D.

Dr. James Ransom Holbert of Bloomington is an agricultural scientist who has specialized in the breeding of disease resistance and good agronomic performance in hybrid corn and who, through his long interest in this field, became associated with the Funk Brothers Seed Company of Bloomington after having done considerable botanical and agronomic research for the Federal Government. With the seed concern since 1915, he is now its vice-president and general manager. He is a leading figure among American Agronomists and in the in the national seed trade and in the agricultural world in general.

Dr. Holbert was born near Muncie, Indi-

ana, on July 18, 1890, the son of George L. Holbert, a farmer who was born in West Virginia and died in Indiana in 1936, and Mary (Ross) Holbert, also a native of West Virginia, now a resident of Daleville, Indiana. The future agricultural scientist and business leader began his education in the rural elementary schools of Henry County, Indiana. Following graduation from the Cowan (Indiana) High School, he spent two semesters at Indiana University, Bloomington, continuing with his under-graduate work at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. He was graduated from Purdue in 1915, with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. He entered the professional field in 1915, but continued his studies, taking graduate work in his field at Purdue University. In 1918 Purdue awarded him the degree of Master of Science. Further graduate study was continued at the University of Illinois in the field of plant physiology where he received his Doctor of Philosophy in 1926.

For three months following his graduation from Purdue in 1915, Dr. Holbert was assigned to research on cereal diseases by the Federal Government, and did his work in Minnesota. In September of that year he joined the staff of the Funk Brothers Seed Company. From 1918 to 1936, he was head of a group organized by the company in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Illinois to investigate the root, stalk and ear rot diseases of corn. In 1937 he assumed his present dual office of vice-president and general manager. Since his time with the company he has extended its prestige and operations and multiplied its services to the farmers and the nation.

Dr. Holbert married Bertha Roberts of Lafayette, Indiana, on June 21, 1916. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. Z. Roberts. Her father, a native of Indiana and a minister, is now deceased. Dr. and Mrs. Holbert are the parents of a daughter and son—Ruth, born on February 20, 1918, now the wife of Leon Steele and the mother of three children; and James Roberts Holbert, who was born on September 6, 1926. The Holbert residence is at 1105 Broadway, Normal, where the family is prominent socially. Dr. and Mrs. Holbert worship in the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Dr. Holbert's leadership in his field was recognized by the American Seed Trade Association, which called him to its presidency for a year. He continues influential as a member

of several important national committees in the seed industry. He is also a member of the American Society of Agronomy, the American Farm Managers Association, the Botanical Society of America, the Rotary Club of Bloomington and the Masonic order. His fraternities are Alpha Zeta, Sigma Xi and Alpha Tau Alpha. Photography is his hobby. His scientific work and business administrative abilities are recognized in the agricultural world as having enabled him to make a distinguished contribution both on the development and distribution of hybrid corn and to the general advancement of agriculture.

DURWARD MARTIN NEWHOUSE

In Franklin County Durward Martin Newhouse of Benton is as well known for his activities on behalf of children and the general welfare as for his business leadership and civic work. He has helped children in numerous ways, even to providing homes for families unable to obtain them because of their youngsters. His leadership extends into the agricultural area, where he maintains a farm. In business, he is the founder and operator of the Newhouse Lumber Company of Benton.

Born in Tamaroa, Perry County, on March 4, 1906, Mr. Newhouse is the fifth of the sixteen children of William Frederick and Frances Elizabeth (Hackney) Newhouse. His father, a native of Copenhagen, Denmark, came to the United States in his youth and for years was in the hardware and contracting business at Herrin. Mrs. Frances Newhouse, of Swedish and English descent, was born near Bible Grove, Illinois. Mr. Newhouse went through the eight grades of elementary school at Sesser, in Franklin County, and three years of high school at Herrin. While he was still in high school he obtained his first job. This was in the lumber business, and he did such work as sweeping, picking up nails and feeding the horses for the Stotlar-Herrin Lumber Company. He left school in 1923 and has since been in every phase of the lumber business.

In 1924 Mr. Newhouse left Herrin and went to Gary, Indiana, where he worked as a carpenter for one year. He then returned to Benton. On May 30, 1926, he married Dorothy Louise St. Clair, the daughter of J. A. and Mattie (McDade) St. Clair. Two children have been born to them—Martha Elizabeth, on May 13, 1927, now Mrs. Herbert Kerley and the mother of Herbert Richard (Pete) Kerley; and Dorothy Louise, on February 2,



DURWARD MARTIN NEWHOUSE

1935, who in 1949 was still in school in Benton. Mrs. Newhouse and the daughters are members of the Baptist Church.

In 1926, when he returned to his native area, Mr. Newhouse entered the employ of the Biebel Roofing Company at Benton as a carpenter. A year later he went back to the employ of the Stotlar-Herrin Lumber Company, becoming a yard man. Subsequently, he was made manager of the Stotlar-Herrin yard in Benton, and this position he held until 1938. On April 1, 1939, Mr. Newhouse opened his own lumber yard, calling his business the Newhouse Lumber Company. For a time he and his wife operated the enterprise alone. Today Mrs. Newhouse is still the bookkeeper and office manager, but there are nine employees. The yard is completely equipped, and Mr. Newhouse has extensive shop facilities and a mill. He salvages all waste material from the yard and from it manufactures floor sweep and butcher's sawdust. Also, he carries a complete line of paint, hardware and building materials. His farm in Franklin County consists of forty acres. In addition to the crops he grows, he breeds hogs and maintains milk cows. He has been a member of the Franklin County Farm Bureau since the early 1930s. In the county seat itself, he is a charter member of the Lions Club of Benton. He was one of the organizers of this club and has served as its secretary and treasurer and been on its board of directors. Also, he is well known in Lions International, having been a regional director. A member of the Benton Chamber of Commerce since 1939, he was a director for four years and vice-president in 1948.

Bantam chickens are a hobby of Mr. Newhouse's. He gives away as many as 150 a year as pets for children. In the depression, he took needy boys under the age of fourteen to football and basketball games and, if the need arises again, will repeat this service to boyhood. He has built five rental houses for families with children, and plans a greater number. These activities have made him a popular figure in Franklin County.

IVAN REUAL STUBBLEFIELD

In the southwestern corner of McLean County is the tiny community of Funks Grove. There the Stubblefield family has been well known for years and there on April 11, 1889, was born a member of the family destined to achieve tremendous leadership in the undertaking business, in the financial world and in

civic and cultural activities. This man is Ivan Reual Stubblefield, of Normal. He is the founder and managing partner of the Stubblefield Funeral Home, 200 West Ash Street, in Normal, with whom is associated in the business his son, Reual Harbert Stubblefield.

Ivan Reual Stubblefield was born at Funks Grove on April 11, 1889, the event taking place on his father's farm. His parents were John W. and Minnie (Munsell) Stubblefield. His father, also a native of Funks Grove, was a livestock breeder and dealer, who died in 1927. The mother, a native of Twin Grove, died in 1899. Ivan Stubblefield received his elementary and high school education at Normal, his commercial education at Brown's Business College in Bloomington and his professional training at the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, Cincinnati, Ohio. For twelve years Mr. Stubblefield farmed at Funks Grove. In 1925 he established the Stubblefield Funeral Home in Normal, and he has been serving that college community and the surrounding area with ever-increasing success since that time.

Mr. Stubblefield married Bessie Harbert, a native of Blooming Grove, and one son was born to the marriage on April 4, 1915—Reuel Harbert Stubblefield. The son, who is now his father's partner in the Stubblefield Funeral Home, married Elinore Mae Carpenter and is the father of two daughters: Judith Ellen Stubblefield and Carol Ann Stubblefield. Mr. and Mrs. Ivan R. Stubblefield, who reside at 200 West Ash Street, Normal, worship in the Christian Church. Mrs. Ivan Stubblefield is the daughter of the late Ellen (Kerr) Harbert, who was a native of Hendrix, in McLean County, and who died in 1945, and of George Wesley Harbert, a native of Blooming Grove, who is a farmer in that community.

Ivan Stubblefield's business interest, other than the funeral home, is the Normal Citizens Savings and Loan Association, of which he is a director. In his public service activities, Mr. Stubblefield is also a director of the Normal Public Library. He is active in the National and McLean County Funeral Directors Associations, in the Optimist and Rotary Clubs of Normal, the Normal Chamber of Commerce, the Normal Literary Center Society, and the Masonic Order in which he has obtained the thirty-second degree, and its order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Stubblefield is known and admired throughout his native McLean County and in Central Illinois as a whole.

SAMUEL FREIMAN

The leading furrier in Springfield, Samuel Freiman is also renowned as an exponent of Chinchilla ranching in the United States. With his wife he operates the Capitol Fur Company in Springfield, a firm of which he is president, and also the Capitol Chinchilla Ranch, Inc., of which he is secretary-treasurer. Mr. Freiman is a leader in the movement to revive the genuine Chinchilla trade and is the promoter of the idea of home-raising of this animal for its pelt. Through Capitol Chinchilla Ranch, he sells breeding stock and the necessary equipment and provides expert instruction in the care and feeding of the brooding pair and their offspring.

Mr. Freiman was born in Minsk, Russia, near Warsaw, on February 25, 1890, and went to France in his youth. There he learned the fur business. He came to the United States in 1911, settling in New York City, where for nearly three decades he was a furrier, buying raw skins which he made into fur coats and related items. In 1939 Mr. Freiman established himself in Springfield and soon he was that city's leading furrier, operating the Capitol Fur Company at 226½ East Fifth Street.

Mr. Freiman married Versa Randolph in Springfield on July 27, 1942. Born on December 27, 1909, Mrs. Freiman has had the kind of education and training, not to mention interest, which has made her invaluable in her husband's business. She is treasurer of the Capitol Fur Company and president of Capitol Chinchilla Ranch, Inc. This latter firm was established in November, 1947, when Mr. and Mrs. Freiman began breeding the little rodents. They made their start in this field with five pairs of Chinchillas. Since then Mr. Freiman has bought and sold these animals throughout the United States. His principal purchasing markets are in Canada and Colorado. He sells breeding stock for about \$900 a pair and points out that an animal is ready to pelt when a year old. There are only a few Chinchilla coats in the United States, he says. Two of these, made of inferior pelts or pelts of animals that had died, are to be found in California and Colorado, he further declares, adding that only one coat in the United States was made from prime pelts and that, valued at \$100,000, was made for advertising and show purposes. The Chinchilla, described by Mr. Freiman as the world's most valuable fur, originated in South America, but because of overhunting became virtually extinct. An American mining engi-

neer who sent eleven of the animals into the United States gave them a new start in life as well as a new home. Mr. Freiman estimates there are now 26,000 fine quality Chinchillas in the United States and Canada, and urges Americans to grow them in their homes. Mr. Freiman's enterprise is a member of the National Chinchilla Breeders Association and a representative of the Earp-Thomas Laboratories.

Mr. Freiman is active in the civic life of Springfield and in its Jewish community. He is a member of the B'nai B'rith and the Springfield Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mrs. Freiman is also well known in the community and worships in the Methodist Church. The Freimans distribute an interesting booklet called the "Story of the Chinchilla Industry," telling about these animals and their own ranch and business, and illustrated with scenes from the ranch. The nation's furriers attribute to them much of the growing new interest in Chinchillas. He manufactured chinchilla coats when they were available in the wild state.

HARRY ICHKOWSKY

The Ichkowsky name is one of the best known in the laundry world. Harry Ichkowsky, one of the founders of the H & I Shirt Laundry of Springfield, has helped make the name an outstanding one in this field through his aggressive and progressive leadership in the business. He is also prominent in Springfield's civic circles and in the Jewish community.

Born on December 4, 1911, Mr. Ichkowsky is one of the nine children—three sons and six daughters—of the late Morris and Anna Ichkowsky. His father died in July, 1937, his mother in November, 1944. Educated in the Lincoln School in Springfield, Harry Ichkowsky was first employed by the Dodge and Plymouth dealer near his home there. He worked in the car transportation division of the dealer's service department for two years. Then for eighteen years he worked for his father in a general filling station business, handling tires, batteries, gasoline and similar merchandise. This business, which provided a complete automobile service, occupied a half block. When he was old enough, Mr. Ichkowsky managed the station while his father traveled through the rural areas dealing in poultry and eggs. When the father entered his final illness, the son took over the country routes and was assisted in the operation of the filling station by his brother Isadore. The Ich-



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL FREIMAN

kowskys started their first gasoline station on the east side of Springfield, using one small tank on the side of the street. Later, they moved the building back to the alley and built a modern station costing \$18,000. Harry Ichkowsky took a vocational machinist's trade course to help himself get started in another field when conditions forced a change in the depression, but jobs were so scarce that after a few months he decided to enter the laundry business.

He and his brother Isadore opened the H and I Shirt Laundry, in 1942. Later Isadore dropped out and a brother-in-law, Sam Yaffe (q.v.), also one of Springfield's prominent business men and today a familiar figure in laundry circles, became associated with the firm. The laundry began with one washer and one small shirt press, but soon another washer and a more modern shirt press were added. Business grew rapidly, and there was a time when the volume was too great for the small firm, so that some of the work had to be sent out to another small laundry. Then the other firm was bought out and its equipment moved to the H and I shop. In 1945 the present building at 400 South Eleventh Street was erected and in December, 1948, an addition was built. Through the years more and more modern machinery has been installed. The business has continued to grow in great volume, and now the H and I Shirt Laundry is one of the leading establishments of its kind in its section of the state. In 1946, Isadore Ichkowsky returned to the firm, as a partner in the newly-established dry cleaning department. This department operates its own trucks for pickup and delivery service, and has shown a tremendous profit. The Ichkowskys and Mr. Yaffe employ 22 girls and five men. Harry Ichkowsky is a member of the Springfield Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles; the Chicago Motor Club and the Men's Club of B'Nai Abraham Temple of Springfield. He is unmarried. In Springfield he is regarded with great respect as a man who is aiding in the development of the city's business and its cultural life.

FRANK S. GRAY

There have been two men in Illinois of the name of Frank S. Gray. Father and son, each has made a contribution to the welfare and development of the State—the father as educator and physician and surgeon, the son as banker. The son, Frank S. Gray, is president of the First National Bank of Harrisburg. He

is also known for his leadership in religious and health and welfare organizations and programs. He is a veteran of World War I.

Mr. Gray was born at Allendale, in Wabash County, on March 27, 1890. His father, Dr. Frank S. Gray, was a native of Ohio who moved to Illinois when he was twenty-two years old. For a time he was a school teacher, but later took the degree of Doctor of Medicine and for perhaps a half century practiced as physician and surgeon. He died at the age of eighty-seven. His wife, mother of the banker, was Rachel Belle (McFarland) Gray, also born in Wabash County. The banker is the fourth of six children, the others being Nell, Gertrude, Carrie, Jane and Paul Gray.

Mr. Gray, who prepared himself for a profession kindred and complementary to that of his father, pharmacy, first attended the elementary schools of Wabash County, then high school in Vincennes, Indiana. In 1910, he was graduated from the School of Pharmacy of the University of Valparaiso, Indiana, and soon afterward passed the examinations of the Indiana State Board of Pharmacy, receiving his license to practice that profession. To this day he holds an active Indiana license. In 1911, however, he returned to his native community, Allendale, and there entered the banking business as a clerk in the First National Bank of Allendale. When the United States entered its second year as a belligerent in World War I, in 1918, he entered the Army and went to France with his outfit. He became a Corporal and Company Clerk. Honorably discharged in 1919, Mr. Gray returned to his position with the First National Bank of Allendale. He was promoted to assistant cashier, and this post he held until 1923, when he left Allendale to become cashier of the First National Bank of Harrisburg. He held this office for nearly twenty-one years. In January, 1944, he was elected president of the bank, and since that time has guided it to its present great success and prestige.

Back at Allendale, in 1917, Mr. Gray married Ruth Adams, like himself a native of Wabash County. She died in August, 1947. Mr. Gray has since remarried. The present Mrs. Gray is the former Jeanette Wasson of Evansville, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Gray worship in the First Christian Church of Harrisburg. A member of the church's official board, Mr. Gray has served also as treasurer for several years. He is treasurer of the advisory board for the Sal-

vation Army in Saline County, with headquarters in Harrisburg, the county seat. He has been treasurer of the Saline County Tuberculosis Association since 1934. In the course of World War II, he was chairman and co-chairman, at different times, of War Bond drives in Saline County and also participated in American Red Cross work. A member of the Kiwanis Club since 1924, he served as president in 1945. He is also active in the Masonic Blue Lodge in Harrisburg. A well known figure in banking, he is a former chairman of the regional group of the Illinois Bankers Association and is also active in the American Bankers Association. He is a Republican. Motoring and his home are his hobbies. His contribution to all the major phases of life in Saline County and beyond is widely acknowledged by his fellow citizens.

OTTO WILLIAM WEGENER

Primarily known as a manufacturer of gas-heating equipment, Otto William Wegener of Belleville has become renowned for the contribution he made to the nation's war effort in World War II in fashioning some of the weapons which brought victory, for his contribution to the development of Belleville and Saint Clair County and for his promotion of a baseball team for the community and surrounding area—the Belleville Stags. He is president of the Premier Stove Company of Belleville and a partner in the Bill and Mel Wegener Contracting Company.

Born in Belleville on February 24, 1906, Mr. Wegener is the son of Louis F. and Marie (Kueker) Wegener, the latter a native of Germany who came to the United States when twelve years old. Louis Wegener, born in Ruma, Illinois, was a wagon maker. Reared in Belleville, Otto W. Wegener was educated in a Lutheran grade school, in public high school and in a commercial school. He began his career with a transfer company, for which he worked eight years and of which he became office manager. Subsequently, he held various other types of jobs. In 1929 Mr. Wegener became associated with the Premier Stove Company as salesman, but soon afterward became sales manager. In 1943 he was made general manager, in 1945 treasurer and in 1949 president. He now holds all three offices. In 1943, he temporarily discontinued the stove business and went to work on war contracts. He assisted the Government in perfecting M21 lighting equipment chests, and he kept increasing production. Also, he made a

cluster adaptor, or bomb hanger, and an automobile repair kit for military cars to carry. When he terminated his war contracts, he did so on a basis of no cost to the Government. Then he returned to stove manufacturing. He perfected a low overhead system, but worked long hours. When he began making gas-heating equipment, he established new trade outlets through jobbers and dealers. Today he employs fifty persons.

In 1934 Mr. Wegener married Ethel Schiermeier of Belleville, and they are the parents of four children—Thomas Coates, born October 5, 1938; Elaine Lois, born April 2, 1940; Sue Ellen, born November 14, 1942, and Nina Jane, born June 23, 1946. The family worships in the Lutheran Church, in which Mr. Wegener is chairman of the board of Christian education.

Outside the church and his business, Mr. Wegener takes a leading part in the Belleville Chamber of Commerce. He is a former president (1946-47) and was the first vice-president (1943-44) and a member of the board. As president, he was instrumental in bringing a large paper mill to the city. A baseball enthusiast, he is a stockholder and influential in the Belleville Fans Association, owners of the Belleville Stags. He is also a member of the Optimist Club of Belleville, the American Gas Association, a member of the Board of Directors, Gas Space Heater Division Institute of Cooking and Heating Appliances, and the Furniture Club of America. As far Southwest as Galveston, Texas, he is an Honorary Deputy Sheriff. He has an honorable place, also, in the minds and hearts of his fellow citizens in Illinois.

GEORGE WILLIAM MORROW, M.D.

A noted specialist in the diagnosis and treatment of mental diseases and an institutional administrator who served more than four decades in the state hospital system of Illinois, Dr. George William Morrow is a former Superintendent and Medical Director of the Kankakee State Hospital, at Kankakee, Illinois, and retired from the service of the Illinois state's institutional work, and is now Assistant Superintendent of the Logansport State Hospital, at Logansport, Indiana. He is prominent in medical and psychiatric circles and in civic affairs.

Dr. Morrow was born in Benham, Indiana, June 16, 1880, the son of Andrew J. and Emaline Jolly Morrow, both also natives of the Hoosier State. The father was a farmer and a



OTTO WILLIAM WEGENER

business man. Dr. Morrow received his primary education in the grade school at Benham, Indiana, and High School at Batesville, Indiana. He then attended Marion Normal College at Marion, Indiana. He entered the Kentucky School of Medicine in 1903, at Louisville, Kentucky, where he remained two years and then transferred to the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1908. From June 1, 1908 until December, 1950, Dr. Morrow was active in Illinois' state hospitals, rising from intern to physician, to Assistant Superintendent and finally to the position of Superintendent of the system. June 1, 1908, marked the beginning of his internship at Elgin State Hospital. From June, 1909, to May, 1916, Dr. Morrow served the staff of the Anna State Hospital, at Anna, Illinois, in the capacity of assistant physician, physician and Assistant Superintendent. In May, 1916, he became associated with the Kankakee State Hospital, where he remained until March, 1922, when he was transferred to the East Moline State Hospital where he remained until September, 1927, when he returned to the Kankakee State Hospital, in the rank of Assistant Superintendent. In April, 1937, he was promoted to the position of Superintendent of that institution, which post he held with an ever increasing reputation as alienist and institutional administrator, until by state law he was compelled to retire from his position in 1950. Because he had devoted his life in the interest of the mentally ill, Dr. Morrow, accustomed to activity, then accepted the post of Assistant Superintendent of Logansport State Hospital, Logansport, Indiana. He was then approaching his seventieth birthday.

In October, 1915, Dr. Morrow was married to Ruth Elizabeth Carter, who was born in Anna, September 27, 1892. To this union, two sons were born, the first, Dean Weston, died in infancy; the other, George William Morrow, Jr., born November 13, 1925, was a medical student of the University of Illinois in 1950.

To Dr. Morrow is credited the great growth of the Kankakee State Hospital, which at the time of his retirement had a staff of fifteen medical men, thirteen consultants and twenty-eight nurses. As it so happens, the institution, the fourth state hospital erected in Illinois, opened its doors two years before Dr. Morrow's birth, the cornerstone having been laid in 1878. In 1950, the institutional population was 4300 and under Dr. Morrow, an extensive

building program has been carried out, which includes a modern 150-bed surgical and medical hospital, a new 72-bed Veterans' ward, fire station, power and heating unit, staff room and new X-rays, chemical and bacteriological laboratories. Dr. Morrow is a member of the Kankakee County and Illinois State Medical Societies, the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and holds a certificate in psychiatry from the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry. He is also a member of the Illinois Mental Hygiene Society and the Illinois Psychiatric Society. He is a Methodist and a Mason, and besides medicine his favorite activity is fishing. He became a beloved figure in Illinois institutions, and has achieved national reputation as an institutional director and alienist.

GEORGE WOODRUFF ALLEN

At the age of twenty-six George Woodruff Allen of Du Quoin was a district superintendent of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York, such was his meteoric rise in the business world. Today he is the head of a large general insurance agency which he founded in 1922, a director and secretary-treasurer of the Du Quoin Home Loan Association and president of Sunset Memorial Park, Inc. of Du Quoin. He is, in addition, a civic leader of the community, one active in board of education and religious work and in all the major civic organizations.

Mr. Allen was born at Gardner, Johnson County, Kansas, on December 11, 1891. His parents were Henry T. and Laura Belle (Cornelius) Allen. His father, a corn and wheat farmer, was a native of Ohio; his mother was one of the "Pennsylvania Dutch." Mr. Allen's paternal grandfather, John Allen, was the progenitor of the family in America. Born in Chesterfield, England, on April 15, 1811, he came to the New World at an early age, settling in Poland, Ohio where he established the first iron foundry. His wife was Mary (Woodruff) Allen, born at Calow, England on December 22, 1811.

George Woodruff Allen began his education in the public schools of his native county in Kansas. Later he went to high school at Makanda, in Jackson County, Illinois, graduating in 1911. In the school year 1911-1912 he was a student at what is now called Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. When he left the university, he returned to Makanda, where for the next two years he worked in a general

store. Afterward he spent a year as a traveling salesman for a grocery firm, his territory being southern Illinois. In December 1916 Mr. Allen became agent for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company at Christopher, in Franklin County. A year and one-half later, when he was twenty-six, he was made superintendent of the district with headquarters at Du Quoin. In 1922 he established his own insurance and real estate agency in Du Quoin and has since become one of the better known men in this field in Southern Illinois. In 1923 he helped organize the Du Quoin Home Loan Association and since that time has been on its board of directors, serving as secretary-treasurer since 1926. In 1938 he and his son, Woodruff Eugene Allen founded Sunset Memorial Park at Du Quoin and he has been president of the corporation operating the park since that time.

Mr. Allen's wife is the former Connie L. Hiller, the daughter of Rev. George W. and Mary Ellen Hiller of Carbondale. They were married on June 5, 1913 in that city. Besides the son who is his partner, Mr. and Mrs. Allen have two daughters—Mrs. Ray Arganbright and Mrs. Dwight Croessman. The family worships in the First Christian Church of Du Quoin. Mr. Allen served as secretary and treasurer of the church from 1922 to 1948. He also served on the building committee during the erection of the new church, one of southern Illinois' most beautiful houses of worship. For twelve years he was a member of the elementary school board of the city. He has served as secretary of the Du Quoin Chamber of Commerce and also has membership in the Du Quoin Lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and is a Shriner. He was a charter member of the Du Quoin Rotary Club and sponsored the organization of the Club at Christopher. In politics Mr. Allen is a Republican. The development of Sunset Memorial Park is one of his hobbies. Other hobbies include the growing of flowers and shrubs and collecting antique furniture. Also, he likes fishing. A man of extraordinary ability, Mr. Allen has served his community to the utmost of that ability.

EDMOND JEWELL AVIS

Once in the mining and contracting business, through which he made a tremendous contribution to the development of the mining industry in Illinois and in Indiana and

Kentucky, Edmond Jewell Avis of Marion is today a leading figure in the dairy industry of Southern Illinois. He is founder and general manager of the Marion City Dairy. He is especially well known for his work with the Red Cross in Williamson County, especially under flood conditions, and for his activities in the Methodist Church.

Born on a farm near Collinsville, Madison County, on December 5, 1877, Mr. Avis is the son of Edmond J. and Sarah (Fairbanks) Avis. A native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, the first Edmond J. Avis was a prominent farmer in Madison County. He was a leading Republican and Methodist churchman and served for years as a Township Commissioner. Sarah Avis was born in North Carolina. Edmond Avis the dairyman went to St. Clair County Schools near Lebanon. He worked on a farm in Franklin County until he was twenty-five and then entered the coal mines near Benton. At the same time he became associated with a contractor there. Later, he went into the contracting business for himself, with headquarters at Benton and West Frankfort, and from 1905 to 1922 he was president of the Jones and Avis Construction Company, which sank coal mines in Indiana and Kentucky. In 1922 he went into the dairy business at West Frankfort, calling his firm the West Frankfort Pure Milk Company. Five years later he moved to Marion, where he established the Marion City Dairy, of which he is now general manager. The company has a wide trading area and employs eleven persons. It has a modern ice cream plant. It is one of the up-to-date dairy firms of Southern Illinois.

Mr. Avis' first wife was the former Delci Moore and by her he had one child, Laverne, now in business at Herrin. Some time after her death he married Grace Simmons. The following children were born to this marriage: Eloise; Thelma; Dorothy; Carl E., who was a First Lieutenant in the United States Army in World War II and who was killed in action; Bernadean; and Kenneth E., who is associated with his father in the dairy business.

Mr. Avis, in his service to the community, has participated in many civic programs. He was a member of the Marion High School Board for six years and for seven years served as chairman of the Williamson County Chapter, American Red Cross. He was one of those who led rescue and salvage operations in the Ohio River flood of 1937. A member of the board of stewards of the First Methodist Church of Marion, he has headed



EDMOND JEWELL AVIS

the pastoral relations committee for years. He was vice-president of the Marion Chamber of Commerce for eight years. He is also active in the Lions Club of Marion, in the Illinois Dairy Products Association and Southern Illinois, Inc. Travel is his hobby. In the winters he goes to Florida, where he enjoys playing shuffleboard. Mr. Avis is recognized as one of the modern builders of Southern Illinois, a man who has handed down to his son Kenneth traditions which the latter is following in his own contribution to the area.

CARL EDUARD BRETSCHER, A.I.A.

Having demonstrated the quality of his citizenship in military service in World War II, Carl Eduard Bretscher of Springfield continues the demonstration today in two-fold fashion: as architect and as farmer practicing progressive scientific methods of soil reclamation and conservation. He is in independent practice as an architect, with headquarters in Springfield. As farmer, he is on Rural Route 2, Springfield.

Born in Springfield on June 9, 1910, Mr. Bretscher is the son of the late Gustav C. Bretscher, the founder and president of the Illinois Tobacco Company, headquartered in the state capital, and Caroline M. (Schuricht) Bretscher, native of St. Louis, Missouri, and daughter of Dr. and Mrs. G. S. Schuricht. Gustav Bretscher, who was born in St. Louis, Missouri, died in Springfield in 1944, at the age of seventy. The architect spent a year at Bradley University, Peoria. In 1935, he took the degree of Bachelor of Science in Architecture at the University of Illinois, and then served an apprenticeship under Carl T. Meyer, Architect, in Springfield. The "apprenticeship," begun in 1935, ended when on November 20, 1942, Mr. Bretscher went into active service with the United States Army. By this time he was a seasoned architect and engineer. He served on Guam with the 949th Engineers Aviation Company (Topographic), attached to the 20th Air Force Headquarters. He was able to give the armed forces skilled services closely related to his professional career. Separated from the service on November 19, 1945, Mr. Bretscher returned to his home at Springfield and on January 1, 1946, began an independent practice of the architectural profession. The following March 1, he invited L. Philip Trutter, Architect, into partnership with him and they practiced together until May 14, 1949. Since that date Mr. Bretscher has continued independently, and many structures, private and public, stand as

reminders of his skill and artistry, while his reputation spreads into an ever-widening area.

On September 12, 1942, at Springfield, Mr. Bretscher married Rita R. Jordan, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Jordan. Mrs. Bretscher is a native of the capital. Besides her duties as housewife Mrs. Bretscher officiates as secretary to her husband's practice at his office. Mr. and Mrs. Bretscher reside on their 53-acre farm in Sangamon County, just outside Springfield. The farm is being reclaimed from erosion by a reforestation project, permanent pasture program and general conservation practices, all of which is serving as a demonstration in the county and helping promote scientific agricultural procedures. Mr. and Mrs. Bretscher worship in the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Springfield. Mr. Bretscher is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the American Business Club and the Sangamo Club of Springfield. Gardening is his hobby. Allied to his architectural interest and skill are two other hobbies, the arts, music and painting. Mr. Bretscher is fast becoming one of the popular citizens of Sangamon County and Central Illinois.

WILLIAM CARROLL BROWN

Many fields of endeavor in Southern and Central Illinois have felt the leadership of William Carroll Brown of Chester. For years active in the transfer and road building business, Mr. Brown now gives most of his attention to the sand business. He is secretary and treasurer of the Southern Illinois Sand Company, headquartered in Chester. His son, Spencer F. Brown, is president of this concern. W. C. Brown has been a leading figure in community affairs at Chester since the early 1920's. He is known throughout the Greater Egyptian area for his interest in civic development, scouting, education and public affairs.

Mr. Brown was born in Chester on October 4, 1889, the son of William and Mary (Bright) Brown, both also natives of Randolph County. William Brown was a farmer. William Carroll Brown was educated in the rural schools of Randolph County and at the Gem City Business College in Quincy, graduating from the latter in 1909. In the Spring of 1910 he went to work as a bookkeeper and receiving clerk for the Western Grocery Company of Kansas City, Missouri. In 1914 he moved to St. Louis, where he became a shipping clerk for the Stephens Lithograph and En-

graving Company. Three years later he left this concern to return to his native Chester. There, for the next two years, he operated a dairy farm. In 1922 Mr. Brown entered the road contracting business, and at one time owned fifty-two mules, which he used in the business. About 1924 he also went into the transfer business, beginning with one wagon and team. Meantime his contracting business expanded to include excavation and concrete work. In 1932 he did road construction work throughout Southern Illinois and in the major portion of Central Illinois. Later, he formed a partnership which operated a meat and bread route from Chester to East St. Louis, serving a total of five counties. This he sold out in 1948. On October 1, 1946, Mr. Brown purchased the Southern Illinois Sand Company, Inc., with himself as secretary and treasurer and his son as president. This is now Mr. Brown's main business. He produces sand from the Mississippi River.

Mr. Brown married Jennie Smith, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Channing Smith of Chester. Their son is married and has two children, Bruce and Terry. Mrs. Brown is active in Chester's civic life, especially in women's groups and the women's organization of the First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Brown is also active in this church and is a member of its board of trustees. The Brown home is at 1803 Swanwick Street, Chester.

Mr. Brown served as president of the Chester Chamber of Commerce in the year 1924-25. He was one of those who organized the Rotary Club of Chester and was its first president. He served on the public school board of Chester from 1927 to 1936. He organized Troop 16, Boy Scouts of America, in conjunction with Rotary work, in 1928, and has been on the Troop Committee since. He is also active in various Masonic bodies, including Ainad Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at East St. Louis and the Mississippi Consistory, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, as well as in the Chester Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Bird hunting and fishing are his favorite sports. Mr. Brown's contribution to progress and welfare at Chester is widely recognized in his section of the State.

PETER JACHINO

A name prominent in Central Illinois is that of Peter Jachino of Mattoon. Mr. Jachino, an enterprising and successful business man who served with the United States Navy in World War II, is the owner and operator of

the Jachino Distributing Company, a wholesale beer concern at 1101 Champaign Street, Mattoon, a concern covering five counties in the central part of the State. Mr. Jachino is active not only in the business world but in veterans', civic and fraternal organizations and in the Roman Catholic Church.

Born in Nokomis, Montgomery County, in 1920, Peter Jachino is the son of James and Theresa (Fassino) Jachino. His father, a coal miner at Nokomis, was born in Italy and when sixteen years old migrated to the United States. Theresa Jachino was also born in Italy and she too came to America at a young age, having been thirteen when brought here by her parents.

The future beer distributor began his education in the elementary schools of Nokomis. After his graduation from the Nokomis High School, he went to work as a truck driver for the Ronchetti Distributing Company in Mattoon on August 1, 1938. He continued this employment until in 1942, when he enlisted in the United States Navy for World War II service. He became a Gunner's Mate Second Class and was sent into the Pacific Theater of Operations. On October 12, 1942, he was separated from the service and returned to his civilian status in Mattoon. On January 1, 1949, Mr. Jachino bought Tony Varda's interests in the beer distributing business in Mattoon and now operates under the name of the Jachino Distributing Company. He distributes beer wholesale in Coles, Moultrie, Shelby, Christian and Cumberland Counties, being agent for Pabst Blue Ribbon and Fox De Luxe Beer. He is the youngest man in the State of Illinois in the beer distributing business.

Mr. Jachino married Doris Mann, of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, on May 25, 1945. Mrs. Jachino is also active in the business, looking after the office and the accounts. Mr. Jachino travels his five-county territory himself, though he employs two salesmen. He operates two delivery trucks. His favorite sport is baseball. Mr. and Mrs. Jachino reside at 1205 Champaign Street, Mattoon.

Peter Jachino belongs to that group of younger business men who are today building a newer America.

HON. JAMES CRAIG VAN METER, LL.B.

The career of the Honorable James Craig Van Meter of Mattoon has been replete with achievement. His legal education was completed just before American entry into World

This space reserved for the portrait of *Peter Jachino*

War I and he served as an officer with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, and then proceeded to serve with distinction on the civilian front. He is not only an outstanding member of the bar, with two and one-half years' experience behind him as Circuit Judge of the Illinois Fifth Judicial Circuit, but is a leader in the field of education, health and welfare and in the business life of Mattoon. As a lawyer he is a member of the famous old law firm of Craig and Craig of Mattoon.

Mr. Van Meter was born at Charleston on August 25, 1895, the son of John Van Meter, also a native of the Coles County seat, and Ina (Craig) Van Meter, a native of Mattoon. His father, born on May 26, 1858, lived in Charleston until 1904, then in Mattoon until 1918 and finally in California where he died. The attorney's paternal grandfather was Dr. Samuel Van Meter, a native of Kentucky, who was one of the pioneer physicians of Coles County. Ina Craig Van Meter was born on June 4, 1869, and was the daughter of Judge and Mrs. James W. Craig of Mattoon. Judge Craig, a leading attorney of Coles County for many years, served on the Circuit Bench of the Fifth Judicial Circuit from 1903 to 1909.

James C. Van Meter was graduated from the Mattoon High School in 1913 and then entered the University of Illinois, where he was elected to Delta Theta, Phi Delta Phi and the Order of the Coif. While a senior at the university he entered the Army on April 30, 1917. He attended the First and Second Officers Training Camp, Fort Sheridan, and became a Second Lieutenant. On December 30, 1917, he sailed for France and served with the 82nd, 4th and 78th Divisions, and saw action at Arras, San Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne.

Mr. Van Meter was given his degree of Bachelor of Laws by the University of Illinois in 1917. Also, he took the special bar examination for those entering the Army on May 4, 1917, at Chicago. He returned from overseas on June 1, 1919, and the following month became associated with the law firm of Craig and Craig in Mattoon. Four years later he was made a member of the firm. This firm was established in 1868 by his grandfather, Judge Craig, and has since been in continuous practice at the same location, 1803 Broadway, Mattoon. Mr. Van Meter was elected Circuit Judge in June, 1933, and served two and one-half years. Upon the death of his uncle, Donald B. Craig, he re-

signed from the bench and returned to Craig and Craig, in which he became associated with another uncle, James W. Craig, Jr., and with Fred H. Kelly, as partners, doing business as Craig and Craig. James W. Craig, Jr., died in 1945 and Mr. Van Meter and Mr. Kelly continued the partnership of Craig and Craig. In 1939, the firm established a branch office in Mount Vernon, Illinois, where they represent many major and independent oil companies. The firm now consists of six partners in Mattoon and Mount Vernon and employs three other lawyers. Mr. Van Meter has been actively engaged in general trial practice and in drainage law practice, and has represented numerous railroads and other corporations. The firm is especially noted for its representation of corporations and individuals engaged in the oil and gas business. Mr. Van Meter has appeared in all the higher State and all the Federal courts including the Supreme Court of the United States. During World War II he was appeal agent for Selective Service Local Board No. 2, Coles County, Illinois, for five years and was awarded the Selective Service Medal.

On April 7, 1921, Mr. Van Meter married Eliza E. Haynes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Haynes of Mattoon. Mrs. Van Meter is former president of the Red Cross Canteen in Mattoon and of the Women's Society of the Central Community Church of Mattoon. She is president of the Literary Club of Mattoon and also a member of the Pan-Hellenic Society and Pi Beta Phi. Mr. and Mrs. Van Meter have one daughter, Alice, a teacher in the Mattoon Junior High School.

Mr. Van Meter's interests outside the law are many and varied. In the business world he is a member of the boards of directors of the Central National Bank of Mattoon, the Okaw Building and Loan Association, the Hotel U. S. Grant, the Mattoon Title and Trust Company and the Mattoon Development Corporation. In his volunteer services to the community he was a member of the board of education in School District 100, Coles County, from 1925 to 1931, and for thirteen years was a director of the Memorial Methodist Hospital of Mattoon, which he served twice as president. He is also a former director of the Mattoon Association of Commerce, and once was a director and president of the Mattoon Golf and Country Club. In addition, Mr. Van Meter is a member of the Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois and American Bar Associations, the American Juridicature Society and the Society of Trial

Lawyers of Chicago. He worships in the Trinity Episcopal Church, Mattoon, and gardening and golf are his favorite relaxations. He resides at 300 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon. In his service to the community, Mr. Van Meter continues traditions established by his forebears, the Van Meters and the Craigs.

OLIVER C. JOSEPH

It was as late as 1903 that the first trans-continental automobile trip was made. Only eleven years later Oliver C. Joseph, who had been an educator, went into the automobile business. Having begun with Dodge Brothers automobiles, he is today the oldest Dodge Brothers dealer in point of service in the state of Illinois, with offices, salesrooms and service shops in Belleville, the county seat. He is also vice-president of the Saint Clair National Bank of Belleville, and is a leader in civic, fraternal and welfare activities. A persuasive public speaker, Mr. Joseph is in constant demand at luncheons, banquets and other sessions.

Born in Saint Clair County in 1890, Mr. Joseph is the son of Frank and Elizabeth (Voison) Joseph, both also natives of that county. His father was a farmer. Mr. Joseph was an outstanding athlete in his school days. He began his education in the rural schools of Saint Clair County and was graduated from the O'Fallon High School in 1909. He was a letterman at high school and set a record for the 220-yard dash, a record which stands today. He majored in science at McKendree College, Lebanon, and studied biology and public speaking at the University of Illinois, Urbana. For six years he was an educator, four of them principal in the schools at Summerfield, a village in Saint Clair County. In 1914 he resigned that position to secure the franchise for Dodge Brothers automobiles in Belleville and he has been operating as head of Oliver C. Joseph, Inc., ever since.

In 1914, also, Mr. Joseph married Irma M. Seger, a native of Saint Clair County and daughter of Fred and Mary Seger. Three children were born to the marriage—Oliver Dee Joseph, Elmo Louis Joseph and Mrs Norma Brown, the latter the mother of Stephen Brown, who spends his summers with his grandparents in O'Fallon. The younger Oliver Dee Joseph is a talented and renowned musician, a flutist. Four times he has won the Gold Medal in the Illinois State Sectional Music Contest. In the United States Merchant Marine in World War II, he now aids his

father in the automobile business and conducts a manufacturing business of his own. Elmo L. Joseph, who is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, was an aide to General Rutledge in the Italian Campaign in World War II and is now associated with the Chrysler Corporation. The family worships in the St. Paul Evangelical Reformed Church of Belleville,.

Not only as Dodge dealer and officer of the Saint Clair National Bank, but as civic and social leader has Mr. Joseph made a contribution to Belleville and Saint Clair County. He is past president of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce, having held that office three terms, and is a director of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce. Active in the Masonic fraternity, in which he holds the thirty-second degree, he is a well known Shriner and a life member of the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children. Also, he is a member of the Optimist Club of Belleville, the Turkey Hill Grange and various sports clubs. His recreation is found in hunting and fishing. He has hunted big game—elk, moose, deer, mountain sheep and goats, and black and grizzly bears in the United States and Canada, and has many trophies to mark his success. As a public speaker making frequent appearances, night and day, he is serving in yet another way. In 1950 Mr. Joseph was fifty-nine years old. Yet he still works six days a week, ten hours a day, giving three nights a week to civic and social groups. His motto is work and he concurs in that great saying, "There is no substitute for hard work plus enthusiasm." Work has made him a figure of eminence in Western Illinois.

HON. WILLIAM WYMAN LYNN

An entire corner of Sparta, Randolph County, is occupied by a business which William Wyman Lynn has developed to great proportions and tremendous prestige from small beginnings. This is Lynn Furniture, Inc., of which Mr. Lynn is president and general manager. Mr. Lynn is also financially interested in the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Sparta and is a foremost citizen of the community, being active in all major civic enterprises and having served as Mayor for four years.

Mr. Lynn was born on a farm in Randolph County on October 27, 1882. He is the oldest of the seven children of Robert R. and Sarah Jane (Houston) Lynn. His father was also born in Randolph County and was the son



OLIVER C. JOSEPH

of William Lynn, a native of England, who lived in New York State until he moved to Randolph County and settled on eighty acres of land, where he died of tuberculosis at the age of forty-five. Robert Lynn, a farmer, was active in the Reformed Presbyterian Church. Sarah Jane Lynn, another who was born in Randolph County, was the daughter of a man who came to the county from Ireland.

William Wyman Lynn was educated in rural schools in Randolph County and at the Sparta High School, where he spent two years. At the age of twenty-one he left the family farm to enter the employ of the Illinois Southern Railroad. He helped dig the foundation for the railroad's shops in Sparta, and afterward worked in the shops, receiving fifteen cents an hour. Later, he worked as a carpenter in the railroad's car shops, and this job he held for eight years. Finally, he operated the woodworking mill, making timbers to repair the cars. When he left the line, he spent two years as assistant postmaster of Sparta and then returned once more to railroading, this time making patterns and molding old brass into engine parts. In May, 1912, Mr. Lynn and his brother Albert formed a partnership and bought out Taylor Brothers Furniture Store in Sparta and this, together with an undertaking business, they operated until 1938. At the dissolution of the partnership in that year, Albert Lynn took over the undertaking parlor, while William Lynn took the furniture end of the business and developed it into the great enterprise known today as Lynn Furniture, Inc. Modern in every respect, the business carries a full line of furniture, floor coverings, appliances and television sets. Mr. Lynn serves also on the board of the First Federal Savings and Loan of Sparta.

On September 27, 1905, he married Bertha Taylor, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Taylor. Mrs. Lynn's father was a noted auctioneer in Southern Illinois. He was a native of Sparta. Mrs. Lynn is active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, and in the women's organizations of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. and Mrs. Lynn have two children—Euneva Taylor Lynn Goodall, mother of Arthur L. Goodall; and Lucille Lynn Pirtle, the mother of Lynn, Konnie and Carroll Pirtle. Mrs. Pirtle's husband, K. R. Pirtle, is associated with Mr. Lynn in business.

Mr. Lynn has been an elder in the Presbyterian Church since 1929 and is also a trustee and a member of the pastoral committee. For

eleven years he taught a class of young married people in the church's Sunday School. He has been on the board of the Randolph County Fair Association since 1929 and is a charter member and past president of the Rotary Club. He is prominent in Masonry, being a Noble of the Shrine at East St. Louis. He has been through the chairs in the Knights of Pythias. On the Sparta school board for six years, he served as Sparta's Mayor from 1929 to 1933. He ranks high among those who have done most to promote the development of Sparta and Randolph County.

THEODORE DENNIS PARKHILL

Theodore Dennis Parkhill of Champaign heads a family consisting of four sons and four daughters, with respective husbands and wives, and in 1949 of twelve grandchildren—all of whom for a period of years ranging, according to age, from perhaps six decades to a few years have worked in concert toward the end that not only the family fortunes might grow but that the public be served to the utmost of their ability. From farming Theodore D. Parkhill has led his family into intercity and national transportation, ranching, gravel supply, and automobile and truck sales and service. The businesses, in most instances, have their headquarters in Champaign, but one enterprise, the Parkhill Montana Ranches, Inc., is located, as its name suggests, in Montana. Like Mr. Parkhill, the sons are more active in the businesses than the women, but all the family, old enough, contributes to the operations in one way or another. All are active in civic affairs and all are popular citizens of Champaign County.

The head of this family, Theodore Dennis Parkhill, was born at Shiloh Hill, Illinois, on December 14, 1871, the son of John and Eliza Jane (Rogers) Parkhill. His father, a native of famed Londonderry County, Ireland, and the father of ten sons, was a farmer. The mother, born at Shiloh Hill, was the daughter of James Berry and Ereminty Rogers.

Theodore D. Parkhill was reared on the family farm at Shiloh Hill. There he went to grade school. Later he spent a year at Ewing College in Franklín County. From farming Mr. Parkhill first went into the livery business. Then he was in the hotel business and for a while he also operated a meat market. Subsequently, he returned to farming, and he has never really left it since that time. There followed, in swift or sometimes slow succession, the implement busi-

ness, a general store, activities in the buying of livestock and shipping, in writing coal options and oil leases, the automobile business, bus transportation, tours, real estate and gravel. Mr. Parkhill's companies are, besides Parkhill Montana Ranches, Inc., the Illini Coach Company, an intercity bus line; Mattoon Bus Line, Inc., a city bus line; Parkhill Tours, Inc., national; Swallow Coach Lines, Inc., an intercity bus line; Parkhill Motor Sales, dealers in Oldsmobiles and Cadillacs; Parkhill Farms, farming and gravel; Don Geyer Sales, Inc., trucks; and American Stages, Inc., intercity bus line. Mr. Parkhill was a director and a charter stockholder of the First National Bank of Christopher, Illinois. He was a member of the Christopher Board of Education and was active in the Modern Woodmen, the Rotary Club of Champaign, the Champaign Country Club and the First Christian Church of Champaign. For years a Democrat, he has recently been voting Republican. The family maintains their home at 404 W. Church Street, Champaign.

Mr. Parkhill married Emilie Werre, the daughter of W. C. and Christina Werre, on October 7, 1894. When asked what her activities are or were, Mrs. Parkhill always answers, "Running a home and raising eight children," occupations of which she has been justly proud. All eight of these children in the order of their birth are: Ruth, the wife of Clyde B. Ragsdale; John W., who married Gertrude Gardner; Olen George, who married Mary Huxtable; Ambia, the wife of Clyde W. Allott; William Theodore, who married Katherine Gay; Earl Russell, who married Barbara Bergen; Grace, the wife of A. Neilson Jackson; and Mildred, the wife of Robert B. Chester. Clyde B. Ragsdale, Clyde W. Allott, A. Neilson Jackson, and Robert B. Chester are all active in the management of the transportation companies. The eldest grandson, Robert H. Parkhill is a graduate of the University of Illinois and was an aviation pilot in World War II. He is an executive of Parkhill Motor Sales.

John William Parkhill was born at Shiloh Hill, on March 25, 1897, and began his education at Christopher. When he was graduated from high school, he went to normal school at Carbondale. Later, he took special training in mechanics at the Greer Automobile School in Chicago. For a time he worked as an auto mechanic at Benton, Illinois. Later he farmed 120 acres of land at Christopher, and also was a contractor and builder, building and selling houses, on some of which he

worked as a carpenter himself. Then he went into the bakery business in Champaign. In 1919 he became a partner with his father in the automobile business, and he is now associated with his father and the rest of the family in the other enterprises. He is on the board of directors of the various transportation companies, a director of the Parkhill Montana Ranches, Inc., and a partner in the farming business. Also, he is vice-president of American Stages, Inc. He belongs to the Champaign Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Kiwanis Club of Champaign.

John William Parkhill married Gertrude F. Gardner, the daughter of William and Leonore Gardner, at West Chicago on June 29, 1932. His wife has devoted herself to maintaining their home, which is at 1008 West Green Street, Champaign. They worship in the Christian and Catholic Churches and vote Republican. Mr. Parkhill's favorite sports are golfing, fishing and hunting.

Olen George Parkhill was born on September 18, 1898, at Christopher, and went through the first eight grades of elementary and the first three years of high school there. He completed his high school education at Hopkins, Minnesota. In 1921, he took the degree of Bachelor of Science at the University of Illinois. In his scholastic days Olen Parkhill was active in basketball, golf and bowling. He was elected to Tau Kappa Epsilon.

From 1921 to 1922 Mr. Parkhill was an agricultural teacher in the high school at Benton. Since 1923 he has been in Parkhill automobile and bus transportation enterprises; since 1935 in the Parkhill farm business; since 1937 in the dude ranching operations in Montana; since 1943 in the gravel pit business. He is a charter member of the Lions Club of Champaign. A member of the Champaign Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and of the Masonic fraternity. A student at the University of Illinois in the World War I period, Mr. Parkhill enlisted in the United States Navy in 1918 and thereafter was in the Reserve Officers Training Corps at the university. Mr. Parkhill was a Democrat until 1932. He has been a Republican since then. He is five feet eleven and one-half inches in height and weighs 190 pounds. Like his father and brothers he is in good health. He likes golf, horseback riding, hunting and fishing.

Olen George Parkhill married Mary Huxtable, daughter of Harold Stafford and Mary Frances Huxtable, in Cleveland, Ohio, on Sep-

tember 20, 1938. Mrs. Parkhill, a housewife in the main, is a graduate of the Illinois State Normal University who did graduate work at the University of Chicago. They have three sons—Robert Theodore, born in 1925, to an earlier marriage of Mr. Parkhill's; and Olen George, Jr., born in 1942, and Thomas Scott, born in 1945. The family lives at 1211 West Charles Street, in Champaign, and worships in the Methodist Church.

Christopher is also the birthplace of William Theodore Parkhill. Born on December 24, 1902, he went to grade school and high school there until 1916. In 1918 he was graduated from the Champaign High School. In his first two years at the University of Illinois, 1919-1920, he was a cavalry cadet in the Reserve Officers Training Corps. He spent three years in California and Florida, and on returning to Illinois completed his education at the university, receiving his degree in 1927. At the university he went in for boxing, wrestling, tumbling and trapeze casting. His social fraternity was Tau Kappa Epsilon.

In 1917, William Parkhill was in farming. From 1918 to 1922 he was a partner in the operation of a bakery. Since 1923 he has been in the Parkhill transportation enterprises, and is now on the boards of directors and is secretary. Since 1935 he has been a partner in the farming business and since 1943 in the gravel operations. Since 1937 he has been on the board of directors of Parkhill Tours and since 1924 on the board of the other enterprises. He has been a director and secretary of the ranching business since 1943. Active in the community, Mr. Parkhill has participated in the work of the Community Chest and is a member of such other organizations as the Chamber of Commerce, the Izaak Walton League, of which he was president in 1946-47; the Elks Lodge, the Rotary Club, the Masonic fraternity, the Champaign County Country Club, of which he was president in 1946-47, and the Illinois Bus Association. He is five feet ten inches tall, weighs 165 pounds, has blue eyes and a light complexion, and is blond. His recreations include golf, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, boxing and wrestling. He also changed from Democrat to Republican in 1932.

William Theodore Parkhill married Katherine Gay, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Gay of Lincoln, Illinois, at Edwardsville on December 23, 1930. Now a housewife, Mrs. Parkhill, educated at Lincoln College and University of Chicago, formerly did social work in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs.

Parkhill are the parents of Richard John Parkhill, born in 1931, and Catherine Gay Parkhill, born in 1935. Their home is at 1114 West Charles Street, Champaign, and they worship at the First Presbyterian Church.

Earl Russell Parkhill was born at Christopher on February 23, 1905. He was graduated from elementary school in his native community in 1918 and from the Champaign High School in 1922. In 1927 he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the University of Illinois. While a student there, he spent four years in the Reserve Officers Training Corps and in June, 1927, when he was graduated, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Cavalry. He was elected to the Scabbard and Blade, military fraternity, and Tau Kappa Epsilon, social fraternity.

In 1919 he too became a partner in the Parkhill bakery, with which he remained until 1922. Since 1918 he has been in the family automobile business as a partner. Since 1924 he has been on the board of Parkhill Tours and since 1923 on the boards of the bus transportation companies. In 1935 he became a partner in the farm operations, in 1937 a director of Parkhill Montana Ranches and in 1943 a partner in the gravel pit business. He has along with other members of the family also been active in all the business, as building from a small financial start on the free enterprise system and plowing earnings back into the business. He is active in all the Parkhill enterprises, and especially in the field of transportation, being on the board of directors and chairman of the safety committee of the Illinois Bus Association. He was also on the board of the Kiwanis Club of Champaign and has worked with the Community Chest and the Champaign Chamber of Commerce, having been on the board of the last named. Other organizations to which he belongs include the Elks Club, the Champaign County Country Club, of which he was a director, and the Masonic fraternity. He is on the board of trustees of the Presbyterian Church.

Earl Russell Parkhill married Barbara Bergen, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Guy L. Bergen of Frankfort, Indiana, in that community on September 26, 1931. Mrs. Parkhill, graduated from the University of Illinois in 1931, and was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority. She devotes herself to her home and family. She and Mr. Parkhill have two children—J. Bergen Parkhill, born in 1934, and Pamela Parkhill, born in 1939. They reside at 1011 West Williams Street,

Champaign. Mr. Parkhill, who is six feet tall and weighs 200 pounds, likes not only golf and fishing but pack trips on horseback in Montana and other ranching and outdoor activities. He is a Republican. His major interest is giving the public service through business, and he is an ardent combatant on behalf of the free enterprise system.

The family has always worked together for the common good, finding its head, Theodore Dennis Parkhill, an inspiration and a source of wisdom and confidence. The many varied Parkhill business enterprises are related in that they are built around transportation and recreation, serving both those who can afford personal automotive transportation and those who must avail themselves of public transportation to pursue their own business or professional efforts, and to enjoy their hobbies or varied forms of recreation. In this amalgamation of interests the Parkhill family has truly served the public.

HORACE WESLEY CLARK

When Horace Wesley Clark of Mattoon died in 1931, the world lost one of its most valuable figures—a man who for years had contributed to major developments in the field of public utilities, water supply, plumbing and heating and industry in general, and inventor to whom at least fifty important inventions were attributed. He was once superintendent and later owner of the waterworks at Mattoon and was the founder and operator of the H. W. Clark Company of Mattoon, manufacturers of the Clark meter box, an invention of Mr. Clark's which gained international attention and distribution.

Horace Wesley Clark was born in Mattoon on May 28, 1871, the third son of the late Judge and Mrs. Horace S. Clark, pioneer residents of that city. Such was Judge Clark's standing in the community that on the occasion of his death on April 11, 1907, the Mattoon Commercial wrote, "Again Mattoon has been called upon to yield up one of her ablest, most active and progressive men; again she has had to surrender one of her foremost lawyers and again she has had to release a judge for the higher courts at the bar of God. . ." At the time of his death he was Judge of the Mattoon City Court and a leader in the political, civic and social life of the entire county. He was a colonel in the Union Army in the Civil War and was wounded in the Battle of Bull Run and later again at Gettysburg. An attorney before the Civil War, he

resumed his practice after leaving the Army and founded the law firm of Clark and Scott of Mattoon, a firm which continued until illness of the junior partner forced its dissolution a few years after the Judge's death. In 1873 he was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and in 1880 to the State Senate. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1888 and was temporary chairman of the State Convention in 1890. In 1890, also, he was commander of the Illinois G. A. R. and in 1892 he was candidate for Governor of Illinois. He became president of the Mattoon Gold Mining Company and was attorney for the Illinois Central and, in special cases, the Big Four. The son of Joseph P. and Charlotte Clark, he was born in Huntsburgh, Geauga County, Ohio, on August 12, 1840, and on March 3, 1864, he married Elizabeth Betts of Pickaway County, Ohio, who became the mother of Horace Wesley Clark as well as Russell S. Clark, Chicago attorney, and Czarina Clark, later the wife of Dr. C. H. Tillotson of Mattoon.

Horace Wesley Clark was educated at Lee's Academy in Loxa, Coles County, and later studied law in his father's office. Coming from a long line of eminent lawyers he was expected to follow in that profession. But the chance purchase of the Mattoon waterworks in 1891 completely changed Mr. Clark's career and gave to the world some fifty inventions pertaining to waterworks equipment. He became superintendent of the water works, then a small plant, but afterward assumed ownership and full management, installing one of the first electrified water plants in the nation. He maintained this plant until 1912, when it was purchased by the Central Illinois Public Service Company. In this period, also, he became a plumbing and heating engineer, operating one of the leading plumbing shops in the city.

As early as 1893 Mr. Clark conceived the idea of a frost-proof meter box to protect the water meter at the curb from weather and tampering. This idea led to the invention of the Clark meter box, patented in 1902 and now an international product. In 1912 the H. W. Clark Company was incorporated to manufacture the Clark meter box. In October, 1913, the firm moved into its new factory in Mattoon, and Mr. Clark maintained control until his death. He was one of the oldest members of the American Water Works Association, his membership dating back to 1893. He was one of the founders of the Illinois



HORACE WESLEY CLARK

Water Works Association, now a division of the national organization, and he held memberships also in the New England and the South West Water Works Associations and the American Society of Engineers. He was a charter member of the Mattoon Association of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Mattoon and the Mattoon Country Club. He also belonged to the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen. At the time of his death he was president of the board of trustees of the Methodist Church of Mattoon.

On December 3, 1891, Mr. Clark married Inez K. Moore, who was born in Mattoon on June 12, 1871, and who is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Moore, pioneer residents of that city. Three sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Clark—Kenneth Wesley Clark, on December 14, 1892, who died September 21, 1945; Donald Moore Clark, on May 28, 1897, who died August 30, 1944, and Horace Pomeroy Clark, on April 14, 1905, who died February 7, 1947. Kenneth Wesley Clark married Louella Thomas on June 20, 1914, and their children are Inez Elizabeth, born May 25, 1915, wife of Cecil Moore and mother of Pomeroy and Jeanne Ann Moore; Mildred, born March 29, 1918, wife of Travis L. Hilsabeck and mother of Kenneth Eugene and Carol Lynn Hilsabeck; Thomas Wesley Clark, born June 28, 1924, who married Ruthelma Greeson and is the father of Nancy Elaine Clark; Patricia Louella, born November 10, 1931. Donald Moore Clark married Dewey Welch Clark on August 6, 1922, and became the father of Phyllis Ann. Horace Pomeroy Clark married Helen Tolliver, who died on July 2, 1943, and then married Mabel Lacy; he was the father of Robert Stephen, Horace Pomeroy and James Paul Clark.

Horace Wesley Clark died at his home, 3344 Prairie Avenue, Mattoon, on January 19, 1931, after a two year illness of kidney trouble. His widow, who has for years been prominent in civic and social life in Mattoon, resides at 1405 Lafayette Avenue, Mattoon. On June 12, 1949, Mrs. Clark celebrated her seventy-eighth birthday. In the long years since her husband's death she has witnessed the rise of his reputation as a man who contributed to her city's progress, development and welfare.

HON. DONALD SHORES FUNK

There are few residents of Illinois who do not know the name of the Honorable Donald Shores Funk of Springfield and the

part he has played in the development of the state and the improvement of its business and banking machinery and its governmental system. Mr. Funk, president of the Sangamo Electric Company of Springfield, is active in other business and industrial fields and in banking, and is currently adding distinction to an already distinguished public career by serving on the Illinois Commission to Study State Government, popularly known as the "Little Hoover Commission."

Mr. Funk was born at Bloomington, in McLean County, on October 16, 1895. His parents were Deane N. and Fern S. Funk both of whom were also born in Illinois. Donald Funk was given his early education in the McLean County elementary and high schools and then went to Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, where in 1917 he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Following his graduation from Yale, Mr. Funk returned to Illinois and in August, 1917, entered the employ of the Sangamo Electric Company. In March, 1918, he took a military leave of absence and went into the United States Army, serving until the Armistice ended World War I and for a few months longer. Honorably discharged in 1919, Mr. Funk resumed his work with the electric company. Little by little he worked up through the ranks until he became manager. Then he was elevated to general manager and in March, 1939, elected to his present office of president. In addition to serving in this office he is a member of the boards of directors of the Springfield Marine Bank, the Springfield Boiler Company and the Union Special Machine Company.

On October 6, 1934, Mr. Funk married Mary Douglas Hay, daughter of that prominent Illinois citizen, Logan Hay. Mr. and Mrs. Funk have two children—Donald Hay Funk, who was born on June 9, 1937, and Louise Emily Funk, who was born on September 14, 1940. The family lives at 2 Sunset Lane, Springfield, and worships in that city's First Presbyterian Church.

In the years Mr. Funk was rising in the ranks of the Sangamo Electric Company, he was also making a reputation in civic life, for he has always been interested in public affairs, in community development and good government. His appointment to the "Little Hoover Commission" is both a recognition of this public interest and a channeling of his zeal and ability into an investigation likely to lead to more efficient and economical

government in the State of Illinois. He also serves on the directorate of the Illinois Manufacturers Association and is a member of the Sangamo Club of Springfield. He is recognized throughout the state as one of its most valuable citizens.

MISS LEONA SUTTELLE

One of the largest foundries in Illinois is the Kankakee Foundry Company in Kankakee. Of this business Miss Leona Suttelle is president. The concern makes castings for several large concerns and its president as well as her associate, Edward Schneider, vice-president, are among the better known figures in this field in the state.

Miss Suttelle was born in Bradford, Pennsylvania, but attended school and lived all during childhood at Erie, in that state. When she completed her education Miss Suttelle went into teaching, then secretarial work. Her first experience in the present field began when she became secretary to the president of a foundry at Dayton, Ohio.

In 1926, when Ferdinand Schneider, brother of her vice-president, and a native of Fort Recovery, Ohio, purchased the Kankakee Foundry from the Gartlands, he made Miss Suttelle manager of the plant by his will when he died in 1941; and Miss Suttelle was promoted to general manager. She continued in this capacity until she and Edward became partners by purchase of the stock in 1945. The foundry had been incorporated under Ohio laws from 1937 to 1945. But from 1945 to 1948 under Illinois law, it operated as a partnership. In 1948, it was again incorporated, under Illinois laws, with Miss Suttelle as president and Edward Schneider as vice-president.

Now one of the largest foundries in the state and one of the best known foundries in the Middle West, the Kankakee Foundry operates with totally modern equipment and it has a record of being accident free. The plant covers several thousand square feet of space. Its castings are made for such large concerns as the Caterpillar Tractor Company and the A. O. Smith Corporation's water heater division in Kankakee.

Miss Suttelle is not only a leading personality in the foundry world but an outstanding citizen of Kankakee and Eastern Illinois.

TROY EDWIN HART

Hart's department store in Harrisburg is one of the outstanding mercantile institutions

of Southern Illinois. Since the late 1930's Troy Edwin Hart, son of the founder, has been its manager, his father being more active in farming and real estate interests. Troy Hart is himself the founder of Hart's Motors of Harrisburg, direct dealers in DeSoto and Plymouth automobiles.

Troy Edwin Hart was born in Pope County on April 11, 1910, the son of Byrom and Cara (Wallace) Hart. Both parents were also born in that county. Byrom Hart's father was John B. Hart, a native of Shelbyville, Tennessee, who was taken to Golconda, in Pope County, in his infancy where he grew up and became one of Pope County's most prominent citizens. John B. Hart died at the age of ninety in 1942. The Hart family originated in Charleston, South Carolina being well established there at the time of the war of 1776. Byrom Hart, who founded Hart's department store in Harrisburg in 1925, has long been one of Saline County's leading citizens; he has served for many terms on the Harrisburg High School board of education, and as a director of the First National Bank. His activities reach into every phase of life in the community.

Troy Hart, an only child, began his education in the elementary schools at Carrier Mills, Saline County. In 1928 he was graduated from the Harrisburg High School and four years later from Northwestern University, at Evanston, receiving his degree of Bachelor of Science. He is a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. Following the taking of his degree Mr. Hart went into his father's department store at Harrisburg. He started at the "bottom of the ladder," he agreeing with the elder Mr. Hart that this would be the only way to obtain a thorough grounding in the business. He has worked in every department, and has handled shipping, maintenance, office work, administration and merchandising. With his father concentrating his efforts with farming and real estate, he took over active management of the store about 1939. The store employs forty persons. In 1946, Mr. Hart established the Hart Motor Company in Harrisburg, having been awarded the DeSoto-Plymouth franchise. In this business he employs eighteen. The automobile enterprise has attractive salesrooms and is outfitted with modern machinery for sales and service and repairs.

On April 25, 1931, Mr. Hart married Vera Miller, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Miller of Carrier Mills. Mr. and Mrs. Hart are the parents of a son and daughter—Wil-

This space reserved for the portrait of Miss Leona Suttelle

liam Byrom Hart, who was born on February 17, 1932, and Janet Elizabeth Hart, who was born on April 29, 1943. Mrs. Hart is active socially and is a member of the Parent-Teacher Association, The Evergreen, and the Women's Club of Harrisburg. The family worships in the Baptist Church. The country home is on one of the two farms owned by Mr. Hart. The farms aggregate four hundred acres.

Mr. Hart is a member of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, the Harrisburg Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and a former member of the Rotary Club of Harrisburg (1934-1938). He is a Republican. Both he and his father enjoy fishing and hunting. Like his father, Troy Hart participates in every movement aimed at community and regional betterment.

JOHN LEE BOYD

The eastern half of Coles County is a highly agricultural region whose products run to high sums yearly. In that area John Lee Boyd of Charleston has centered all his activities, and in doing so has contributed to the growth and prosperity of the farm area as well as serving his urban neighbors. This he has done through handling the agency for the Allis-Chalmers Company, makers of farm implements. He is also agent for Monarch Products in that part of the county and operates a filling station selling these products to the public at large. Born in Coles County on July 28, 1900, John Lee Boyd got his start on a farm. He was one of four children of Franklin Perry Boyd and of Bertha (Goddard) Boyd. In addition to farming his father operated saw mills and water drills. He died on April 20, 1924. Bertha Goddard Boyd, who was a native of Indiana, died on September 20, 1911.

John Lee Boyd attended the country schools near his native farm but left school when he was thirteen to go to work. He not only worked on his father's farm but by the day on other farms. When he was sixteen he obtained his first job by the month. Later he followed other pursuits and on June 9, 1941, he went into the automobile and implement business in Charleston. As automobile man, he represented the Studebaker Company, but after one year dropped the automobile business and began concentrating on farm implements and later adding Monarch Products to his distributing activities. His implement business is located at Fifth and Monroe Streets, Charleston, and there he carries a complete stock of Allis-Chalmers farm machinery and

parts. His filling station is also complete as to stock as he carries the **entire** Monarch line. Mr. Boyd has a partner in his business, Layton Clifton Swinford, a native of Coles County, who resides at Ashmore in that county.

On July 7, 1923, Mr. Boyd married Eunice Edna Brown of Coles County and they make their home at 103 Ninth Street in Charleston. They worship in the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Boyd's activities extend to organizational work. He is a member of the Charleston Lodge, Loyal Order of Moose, the Illinois Automobile Trade Association and all the implement dealers associations, local, state and national. He is a Republican, and a fisherman and hunter. In Coles County he is known as an able business man, much interested in the welfare of his native territory.

WILLIAM CONVERSE STALEY

The largest earth-moving bulldozers and road rippers to be seen in the United States are produced by the Baker Manufacturing Company in Springfield, under the direction of its president, William Converse Staley. This concern works in a close relationship with its nearest neighbor, the Allis-Chalmers Tractor Corporation, which it induced to move to Springfield. Mr. Staley, a leader in the heavy machinery producing world, is also well known in health and welfare circles, in civic development work and industrial organizations.

He was born in Springfield on September 28, 1899, the son of Edward E. and Elsie (Converse) Staley, both also natives of Illinois. The father, also one of the state's most prominent residents, became president of the Baker Manufacturing Company upon the retirement of its founder, M. W. Baker. Mr. Baker established the company at Plano, Kendall County, in 1908, with offices in Chicago. In 1913, the plant and headquarters were moved to Springfield.

William C. Staley, reared in Springfield, went through its grade and high schools. Then he spent two years at the James Millikin University in Decatur. Mr. Staley's father was president of the Baker Manufacturing Company when, on leaving college, he went to work in the plant. His first job was that of testing equipment made by the company. This he did by driving tractors pulling such equipment. He went from one job to another, gaining experience. Eventually he en-

tered the executive offices as purchasing agent. Then he moved from one job to another in that phase of the business, until he became manager and vice-president. Upon the death of his father in December, 1943, Mr. Staley was elected president.

In 1920, Mr. Staley married Jennie Barnes, from whom he is now divorced. Two children were born to them: Elise Jane, now Mrs. Robert V. O'Keefe, born in 1924, the mother of Diane and Jennifer O'Keefe, and William Converse Staley, Jr., born in 1925, a veteran of World War II and a graduate of Dartmouth University. The son, who married Elizabeth Bennett of Chicago, is in the advertising department of the Baker Manufacturing Company.

The senior Mr. Staley's administration of the company has done much to expand its operations and extend its sales not only in the United States but foreign countries as well. He guided the company in World War II through a vital program for the armed forces, adapting bulldozers, earth-movers and similar heavy equipment for use with tanks and Corps of Engineers equipment. When first established in 1908, the company made horse-drawn dirt graders and snow plows. In expanding, it added horse-drawn street sweepers and later, keeping abreast of the times, motorized these machines. After World War I, when again the company worked on Government contracts, it made self-loading earth-moving scrapers and self-loading snow plows and truck snow-plows, as well as tractor snow plows. The truck, tractor and motorized snow plows continue to be major items in the company's business. The snow-moving equipment is sold chiefly to governmental agencies, state and municipal. The earth-moving bulldozers are sold to contractors. About twenty percent of the products go into the foreign trade. The company is one of the largest exporters in its field in the United States. Four hundred persons are employed in plant and office. Baker equipment is made to fit and work on Allis-Chalmers tractors and caterpillars.

Mr. Staley is a member of the Springfield and State Chambers of Commerce, a director of the Illinois Manufacturers Association and active in Community Fund and related types of drives. He has won great stature as an industrialist and citizen.

ULYSSESS A. COTE

The contribution of Ulyssess A. Cote to the development of modern Illinois is being made through several avenues—the brick and

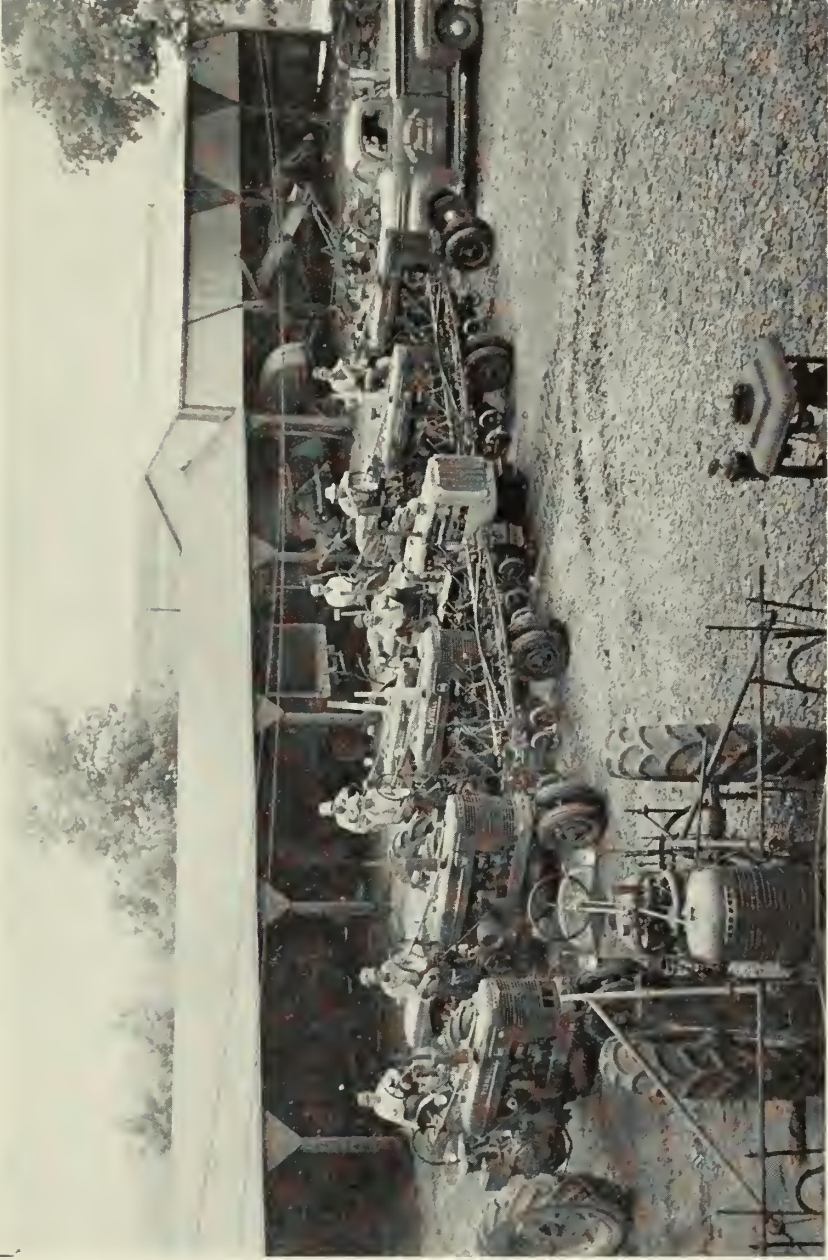
tile business, drainage engineering business and agriculture farming business besides holding various public offices in the community. Headquarters of all the enterprises are in St. Anne, Kankakee County, Illinois. Mr. Cote has made a reputation throughout Illinois as an industrialist and farmer.

He was born at Papineau, Iroquois County, Illinois, in 1874, the son of August and Eudolia Langellier Cote, both of whom were natives of Canada. He was the only son of a family of six children. His father was a farmer in Iroquois County being one of the early settlers arriving in this territory with little more than the belongings he could carry. He lived to the ripe old age of 82 and at his death in 1920 left an estate of some five hundred acres of fertile land. Ulyssess received his elementary education in country schools, attending the Watseka High School and continued his schooling at the Onarga Seminary at Onarga, Illinois, and in 1904 received his degree in business education. Upon leaving college, he worked on the farm with his father until 1906 and then accepted a position as bookkeeper for the St. Anne Brick & Tile Company at a salary of \$10.00 per week. From the records it is quite apparent that in addition to his office work he found time to learn the business by firing the boilers and kilns, running the machinery, loading tile, and doing many other things necessary to the successful operation of the plant. The St. Anne Brick & Tile Company was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois in 1906 by twelve local business men, and during the following nine years Mr. Cote acquired two-fifths of the outstanding stock. In 1915 he acquired the balance of the outstanding stock of the company which gave him complete control of the plant which he has continued as the St. Anne Brick & Tile Company and of which he has since been president. Under Mr. Cote's direction the St. Anne Brick & Tile has expanded considerably and become one of the best known businesses in its field in Eastern Illinois. They employ from fifty to seventy men the year round and with the exception of a few weeks in the early '30's the plant has been in continuous operation from the time Mr. Cote acquired the plant. Such buildings as the Palmer House, Stevens Hotel, Merchandise Mart, new Chicago Post Office, and many other large buildings used St. Anne Brick & Tile Company material exclusively.

Mr. Cote also founded the St. Anne Farm Drainage Co. which has developed into the



MR. AND MRS. ULYSSES A. COTE



Activity on Cote Farms, Inc., Kankakee

largest farm drainage engineering company in the middle west. This company is known particularly for its farm drainage engineering of scientific drainage systems and has installed many millions of feet of drain tile, which of course is all manufactured by the St. Anne Brick & Tile Company. This company employs approximately thirty-five trained men including five drainage engineers together with ditching machines, drag lines, bull dozers, trucks, and other machinery necessary for a complete drainage installation.

About 1920 Mr. Cote saw the possibilities in a large acreage of land lying near St. Anne and began the systematic purchase of same. In 1943 his farm enterprise was incorporated and consisted of some three thousand acres of all improved thoroughly drained farm land. The farms are operated by Mr. Cote personally with hired help who live in the completely modern homes built or remodeled for them. The farming enterprise consists of grain farming and in addition several hundred head of steers are fed each year. The farm operations are completely mechanized and was one of the first large farm operations to be completely mechanized. Diesel tractors have replaced gas tractors just recently.

In 1903 Mr. Cote married Ella Ashline, born in Chicago in 1882. Mrs. Cote's mother Arthamise Ashline born in 1854 is now the oldest living Civil War widow in Illinois; her husband was the late Lawrence Ashline. Mr. and Mrs. Cote's two daughters are Hazel, now Mrs. L. D. Corkins and Eleanor, now Mrs. I. W. Parrish Jr. They are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Marian Corkins Romein, Paul Corkins, Ellan Parrish, Brian Parrish and great-granddaughter Linda Carol Romein.

Mr. Cote continues to give active attention to all of his enterprises with the help of Mr. Corkins and Mr. Parrish and to serve his fellow citizens in other important fields.

HON. FRED CHRISTOPHER WENTHE

Few men are better known in the State of Illinois than the Honorable Fred Christopher Wenthe of Effingham. For more than a third of a century engaged in the retail lumber, building material and coal business, he is today president of the Wenthe Bros. Company of Effingham. He is a recognized leader in the State's lumber and material dealers business and chamber of commerce movement and has served as a City Commissioner of Effingham. Mr. Wenthe renders a further service

to the people of this State through his activities as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Library of American Lives, Illinois edition.

He was born at Effingham on June 25, 1879, the son of Christopher Henry and Wilhelmina (Wiegman) Wenthe. His father, a farmer, was a native of Germany. He came to the United States when he was sixteen years old, bringing with him a colony of seventy other Germans, all of whom settled about four miles south of Effingham, where they acquired land from the Illinois Central Railroad at \$5 an acre. They improved their farms with buildings and continued to farm until their deaths. They were among the original builders of the county. Fred Wenthe's mother was one of the colonists. She came from Germany when she was eighteen. Mr. Wenthe was educated at St. John's Parochial School, Effingham; in Effingham's public schools and at Austin College, also in Effingham, receiving a diploma from the last-named institution.

For a time Mr. Wenthe was a clerk in the superintendent's office of the Illinois Central Railroad at Freeport. Since leaving the railroad early in the century he has been in his present field of business. The Wenthe Bros. Company which he heads is the successor to the Wildi-Leddy Lumber Company and the Effingham Builders Supply Company. It is a concern with a wide territory and tremendous prestige.

On November 24, 1901, at Sullivan, seat of Moultrie County, Mr. Wenthe married Mabel Catherine Jenkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Jenkins. Five children were born to them—Frederick Louis Wenthe, who married Marion and is the father of Jane Wenthe; Robert Charles Wenthe, whose wife's name is Pauline; Richard Jenkins Wenthe, who married Ruth and has a daughter Carolyn by a previous marriage; Eugene Edward Wenthe, who married Beulah and is the father of Debora, Pamela and Philip Wenthe; and George William Wenthe, who married Jeannette and is the father of George William Wenthe, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wenthe, the elder, reside at 710 West Jefferson Street, Effingham. They worship at the First Presbyterian Church of Effingham, in which Mr. Wenthe once served as a deacon.

Mr. Wenthe is past president of the Illinois Lumber and Material Dealers Association and the Effingham Chamber of Commerce and a past director of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce. He has served

Effingham as a Commissioner and in numerous other capacities. He is a Republican. Throughout his career he has devoted much time to public affairs and has been active in launching new industries and getting behind movements which have made for a more populous community—a better community in which to live.

THE A. O. SMITH CORPORATION and F. SHEPARD CORNELL

The Kankakee Works of the A. O. Smith Corporation is the world's largest plant devoted to the exclusive manufacture of automatic storage water heaters. Nearly a quarter of a mile long and more than three hundred feet wide, it was completed in 1946 at a cost of \$3,500,000 and has a capacity of more than fifteen hundred gas and electric water heaters a day. Its unique radiant heating system is also the world's largest—more than 400,000 square feet of floor space contains forty miles of hot water piping connected to 120 Smithway-Burkey Gas-fired Boilers. This Kankakee plant is the home of world-famed Permaglas, Duraclad and Milwaukee water heaters.

Of this plant F. Shepard Cornell is general manager. Formerly with the company's home office at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Mr. Cornell has become a prominent figure in the industrial world and to him is attributed much of the tremendous growth of the company's water heater division at Kankakee.

Mr. Cornell was born in Montclair, New Jersey, on July 13, 1899, and completed his education at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he had majored in metallurgical engineering. He became a member of the New York Stock Exchange in Wall Street and for thirteen years operated as a stock broker. Then for three years he traveled in Europe as a representative of a bond house, Delafield and Delafield. When the United States went into World War II, Mr. Cornell hurried home and successfully applied for a commission in the United States Army Air Forces. He became a Lieutenant Colonel in charge of a B-17 gunnery school. Separated from the service in November, 1945, Mr. Cornell was made assistant to the president of The A. O. Smith Corporation at Milwaukee, and thus participated in the national and international operations of this great business, which also manufactures the famed Harvestore, welding electrodes and structures, electric motors, glass-lined tanks,

auto and truck frames, pressure vessels, liquid gas systems, line pipe, oil-well casings, meters for petroleum products, vertical turbine pumps and railroad products. In addition to Kankakee, the corporation has plants, branches or offices in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Midland, Texas, New York City, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Toledo, Tulsa and Washington. In July, 1949, Mr. Cornell was promoted to general manager of the Kankakee Works and has since supervised the water heater business of the corporation. C. J. Smith founded the business in 1875. It was his son, A. O. Smith, who gave the corporation its present name. About 55 per cent of the stock is still owned by the Smith family.

Mr. Cornell married Lucille Fraser, a native of Arizona, on July 27, 1943. By a previous marriage he has three children—Leigh, born in 1925, who is associated with the A. O. Smith Corporation at Milwaukee, is a graduate of Trinity College and a veteran of the Air Forces of World War II; Leslie, born in 1928, and Robert, born in 1930, now (1950) at the the University of Illinois. Mr. Cornell worships in the Episcopal Church. He is a member of the University Club of New York, the Milwaukee Athletic Club, the Rotary Club of Kankakee, the Kankakee Country Club and a director of the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce. His fraternity is Psi Upsilon. He has become an outstanding citizen of Illinois and a leader in the water heating industry.

JAMES BURTON HAYES

Throughout the United States, and in many foreign countries, James Burton Hayes of Urbana is known as one of the outstanding contributors to the development of the science of x-ray diffraction in the country. A scientific instrument maker by trade, he was with the physics department of the University of Illinois for fifteen years. Today he operates the firm of Hayes Scientific Appliances in Urbana, a pioneer in the field of x-ray diffraction equipment which he founded. He is of course known to the medical and related professions, to the educators and scientists and is active in the Baptist Church. He has made his science and skills available to individuals, corporations, educational institutions and the Federal Government in time of peace and war.

Born in Urbana on March 13, 1885, James Burton Hayes is the son of James A. and Ruth



F. SHEPARD CORNELL

(Carmon) Hayes. His father, a native of Greenville, Dark County, Ohio, was a veteran of the Civil War, in which he served throughout its four-year duration. He was a cabinet maker. James Burton Hayes was educated in the elementary and high schools of Urbana and at the University of Illinois, where he spent a year.

Mr. Hayes began his career as an apprentice in the scientific instrument making trade. After he achieved journeyman status, he went into the physics department of the University of Illinois and there remained fifteen years. He left the university in 1920 to establish the Hayes Scientific Appliances, and his plant and offices are at 202 North Broadway, Urbana. Hayes Scientific Appliances helped design and manufacture the first x-ray diffraction equipment in the United States, and was the only manufacturer of this equipment in the country until 1940. The science of x-ray diffraction has proved to be one of the most important developments for the nation, and Mr. Hayes, through the operations of his business, has had a hand in this development. His firm also manufactures machines to test the fatigue of metals, another field in which Mr. Hayes pioneered; recording viscometers, extensometers, ultra-filters, various types of dynamometers and recorders, and thermometer and chemical glassware graduators. These apparatus and instruments are used throughout the United States in industry and educational institutions and also in many foreign lands, and wherever this equipment goes there Mr. Hayes' name is known.

Mr. Hayes married Nellie Mae Whitmore, the daughter of Frank M. and Olive Whitmore, in Urbana on March 14, 1912. Mrs. Hayes is active in church work and in the Urbana Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes reside at 408 Delaware Street, Urbana.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayes were both active in the Baptist Church of Urbana. Mr. Hayes is chairman of the board of deacons and is also a teacher in the Sunday School. Fishing, traveling and sightseeing are his favorite forms of relaxation. In World War I he put his scientific skill to use on behalf of the nation by designing submarine detectors, such as helped put the "U-Boats" out of commission and hastened the end of the conflict. All his work has helped humanity in various ways, contributing to health, industrial development and to education.

JOSEPH A. SECK

Seven states, in the Middle West, the Southwest and the East, are the trading territory of the Seck-DeVault Paint Manufacturing Company of Springfield. This is a firm founded as recently as 1945, and yet it has, through the guidance of Joseph A. Seck and his partner, established a prestige and developed a volume of business as to make such a large trading territory possible. Mr. Seck is vice-president and general manager of the concern, which makes a complete line of paints and varnishes. He is also a leading figure in the community.

Mr. Seck was born in Miami County, in the eastern part of Kansas, on May 7, 1905. He went to grade and high schools in the nearest community to his birthplace, Wea, in Miami County, and then studied in a college at Kansas City, Missouri. He completed his education with special studies at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Mr. Seck began his business career with a hardware and supply company in Kansas City. From 1927 to 1945 he was with the Great Western Paint Manufacturing Corporation of Kansas City. He worked up through all phases and branches of the enterprise until he was made vice-president and general manager. In 1945, however, he resigned to join I. H. DeVault in organizing the Seck-DeVault Paint Manufacturing Company in Springfield. He has been vice-president and general manager since then. To the original plant the partners have made additions five different times so popular has become their product. They now have a production capacity of 10,000 gallons of paint and varnish a day and they employ fifty persons. They sell in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Pennsylvania and Texas. Mr. Seck, who is responsible for the administration of the business, has become noted in the paint and varnish industry.

Mr. Seck married Johanna Colson, also a native of Kansas, in October, 1931, and they have two children—Robert Seck, born in 1933, and Carol Seck, born in 1935. Mrs. Seck is also well known in the community. Mr. Seck is a member of the Illinois Manufacturers Association, the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club of Springfield and the Springfield Young Men's Christian Association. He has made an outstanding contribution to his industry and to the business development of Illinois and its capital city.

HAL L. BURNETT

As early as 1919, when he was twenty-six years old, Hal L. Burnett of Harrisburg, seat of Saline County, went into the automobile business. Today he is the owner and operator of the Hal Burnett Buick Agency at Harrisburg as well as the holder of the Hotpoint franchise in his area. In addition, he is a farmer and stockman. He is one of the best known automobile dealers in Illinois, and has a national reputation among automotive men, and has made a local reputation for his interest and activity in civic enterprises.

Mr. Burnett was born in Raleigh, Saline County, on June 2, 1893, the son of Dr. H. L. and Emma (Corwin) Burnett. Dr. Burnett, also a native of Saline County, practiced medicine at Raleigh for many years. Later in life, he owned the bank at Raleigh and a store as well as Saline County farms. His father was Hiram Burnett, another who was born in that county and who farmed eighty acres which had been deeded to the automobile man's great-grandfather in 1818. Emma Corwin Burnett was the daughter of Dr. John C. Corwin, who came to Illinois from Indiana and became prominent as a medical practitioner.

Hal Burnett was educated in the public schools of Saline County, being graduated from high school in 1912. For about ten years he worked in his father's bank at Raleigh. Later he lived in Cook County and for five years worked as a State Bank Examiner. In 1919 Mr. Burnett bought the Chevrolet dealership at Eldorado and from 1921 to 1929 he owned the Chevrolet agency in Harrisburg. From 1929 to 1936 he operated the Chevrolet agency in Jefferson, Missouri, and then for five years he held the distributorship for the Cadillac automobile in three States, with headquarters at Salt Lake City. In 1941, he returned to Harrisburg and organized the Hal Burnett Buick Agency, which he has successfully developed into its present large organization. The agency is a sole ownership. Also growing is his Hotpoint appliance business. His farm consists of 180 acres. On it he maintains a herd of forty head of registered Hereford cattle.

Mr. Burnett married Kathleen Whitney, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Whitney of Eldorado, in that community on July 14, 1915. Mrs. Burnett, who is active socially in Harrisburg, is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She and Mr. Burnett are the parents of Emilee and Virginia

Burnett. The family worships in the First Methodist Church of Harrisburg.

Mr. Burnett, a six-footer weighing 218 pounds, likes most outdoor sports. His farm is his hobby. On the farm is a lake which he keeps stocked with fish, and fishing and walking horses are among his other interests. One of those who are helping to build Southern Illinois, he is a member of Southern Illinois, Inc., and he is a former director of the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association and is also active in the National Automobile Dealers Association. In World War II he was a Captain in the Illinois State Guard as well as a member of the OPA rationing board in Saline County. He is a charter member and past director of the Lions Club of Harrisburg and past master of Blue Lodge No. 128, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Raleigh. At Jefferson, he belonged to the Rotary Club. He also belongs to the Harrisburg Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce. He is a Republican. Few men are as devoted as he to the building of their communities and regions.

RAYMOND FRENCH BROOKBY

A leading personality in the fuel business in the twin-city area of Champaign and Urbana is Raymond French Brookby of Champaign. He is the owner and operator of the Acme Coal Company, with yards and offices at 609 North Champaign Avenue, Champaign. Mr. Brookby served with the United States Navy as an officer in World War II and continues today to be actively interested in the nation's welfare.

He was born in Chicago on August 1, 1910, one of the three children of Harry E. and Edith (French) Brookby. His father, a native of Lafayette, Illinois, was a chemical engineer who spent most of his professional life with the United States Gypsum Company; he died in 1930. The mother of the coal merchant, Edith French Brookby, was born in Chicago and survives her husband.

Raymond Brookby began his education in the public schools of Evanston. Following graduation from the Evanston High School, he entered Dartmouth College in New Hampshire in 1928. Four years later he took his degree of Bachelor of Arts. At college he was active in tennis, and was elected to Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

After his graduation Mr. Brookby entered the employ of Montgomery, Ward and Com-



HAL L. BURNETT

pany in Chicago, and was made a retail store manager trainee. He served this firm in this and similar capacities not only in Illinois but in Iowa, Missouri and Minnesota. He resigned from Montgomery, Ward to become associated with George Fry and Associates in Chicago. . Subsequently, he was with Butler Brothers of Chicago. On January 17, 1949, Mr. Brookby went to Champaign, where he entered the coal business. This step he took by purchasing the Acme Coal Company, an old established firm to which he has brought additional prestige and business and through which he has become one of the leaders in the field of fuel merchandising in the twin cities.

Mr. Brookby married Frances Ann Mellick in Evanston, Illinois, on June 20, 1936. They have become the parents of two children—Edith Ann Brookby, who was born on October 10, 1941, and Marilyn Brookby, who was born on September 7, 1947. The family home is at 610 Hessel Boulevard, Champaign.

Active in the Twin City Fuel Merchants Association, Mr. Brookby has served on its board of directors. He is a member also of the Chicago City Club, the Kenilworth Club of Kenilworth, Illinois, of the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign, the Champaign County Country Club, and the Champaign-Urbana Lions Club. In World War II he saw active duty for three and one-half years. He was commissioned a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the United States Navy in 1942 and by the time he was separated from the active service he had risen to Lieutenant Commander. His favorite sports are golf and tennis. His hobby is amateur photography.

He has given much time to programs devised to stimulate growth and welfare in the twin city region.

GEORGE WASHINGTON GOBLE

The Goble family, associated in America with farming, civic and land and other developmental activities for three centuries, can be traced back to a Thomas Goble who, with his wife and children, were residents of Charlestown, Massachusetts, in 1634. The fact that the family has lived in Coles County, near Charleston, Illinois, for generations—producing such famous citizens as the late George Washington Goble and his daughter, Anna Goble—is perhaps more than a coincidence. One of Thomas Goble's sons, Daniel, was executed for killing Indians in 1676. The Gobles gradually moved westward, living for a time in Morristown, New Jersey, then in Western

Pennsylvania, whither they moved in 1773, and settling in Kentucky before 1787.

Benjamin Franklin Goble was the father of George Washington Goble and grandfather of Anna Goble. He was born in Coles County, on a farm southwest of Westfield, in 1837. His father, Daniel Goble, born in Kentucky in 1805, moved to Perry County, Indiana, about 1824 and married Sytha Walker. In 1830 he moved to Green County, Indiana, and in 1832 to Clark County, Illinois. In 1833 he settled in Coles County. He and his wife, the former Ann Brown, daughter of John and Judith Ball Jameson Williams Brown, a descendant of George Washington, reared a family of ten children—six sons and four daughters, four of whom became teachers. One son, William Luther Goble, was principal of the Elgin High School of Elgin for many years, and a library room there is a memorial to him. Another son, Lloyd, taught in the normal school at River Falls, Wisconsin. Benjamin Franklin Goble was a farmer and brought up "his family close to nature and in the admonition of God."

George Washington Goble, who became prominent as farmer, banker, public official and civic leader in Coles County, was born to Benjamin and Ann Goble in a log house three miles southwest of Westfield on December 25, 1862, and received his entire education in a country school near his home. As a young man he moved to the Harmony community northwest of Kansas, becoming a farmhand there in 1885.

On February 23, 1888, Mr. Goble married Arletta Ann Geyer, the daughter of George and Mary Elizabeth (Roberts) Geyer of Harmony, formerly of Ohio. Two sons and two daughters were born to this marriage—William Edwin Goble, on February 1, 1889, who married Lillian Goble and became the father of Ervin Clyde Goble, Mrs. Evelyn Marie Goble Pinnell and Lloyd Elmer Goble; Harold Goble, who was born on June 19, 1892, and married Elizabeth Delap on September 22, 1915, becoming the father of Kinzel Lyle Goble, Mrs. Ruby Melissa Goble Witt and Nina Pauline Goble Baker; Mary Marguerite Goble, born February 7, 1899, now the wife of Lester Honnold and mother of Samuel Lester, Benjamin Harold, Barbara Ann, Mary Alice, Judith May and Martha Marie Honnold; and Anna Goble, who was born on September 3, 1908, and about whom more later.

From the fall of 1888 until his death sixty years later, except for a short period at West-

field, George W. Goble lived and farmed in the Harmony community, a few miles from Oakland. He acquired 360 acres of land in his lifetime and was greatly interested in good livestock, for many years raising Poland China hogs and holding public sales. Also, he had a good-sized herd of registered Polled Shorthorn cattle, which he sold privately. Later in life he was interested in Durocs. He helped organize the Kansas Farmers' National Bank and was one of its directors until it merged with the Kansas National Bank. He was a charter member of the Edgar County Farm Bureau, a Township school trustee for fifty-one years and a director of the Shively rural school for many years. On February 23, 1938, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, surrounded by children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Three years later, on May 21, 1941, Mrs. Goble died and on July 23, 1949, Mr. Goble died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Honnold, southeast of Oakland. He lies buried at Harmony Cemetery. Newspaper stories of his death indicated how widely mourned he was.

Anna Goble, who has made a reputation as teacher, farmer and civic leader in the Oakland area, achieving many things despite the handicap of illness, lives on eighty acres of the home place, about four miles northwest of Kansas. She is interested in good livestock and chickens, being partial to Duroc hogs and White Plymouth Rock chickens. She took quite an active part in raising chickens and selling eggs to the hatchery until her health broke down in the summer of 1946. She spent nearly two years in a tuberculosis sanatorium. Her health has improved and she is back on the farm, taking an ever-increasing part in the work. Miss Goble completed eight years of common school at Shively, which was located on a corner of the Goble farm. Then she drove a horse and buggy to Kansas High School, from which she was graduated in 1926. Afterward, she spent a year at Eastern Illinois State College, Charleston, following which she taught for two years in the home county school. In 1932, she was graduated from college with the degree of Bachelor of Education and then attended Terre Haute Commercial College, which she was forced to leave because of the blindness and poor health of her mother. Miss Anna Goble married James S. Johnston of Mount Pulaski, Illinois, on February 18, 1950. She is now building a reputation in the home area and, like

her father and the others of the family, is a respected citizen of Central Illinois.

FRANK CLIFFORD AMSBARY, JR.

A specialist in municipal, sanitary and water engineering who is known throughout the nation, Frank Clifford Amsbary, Jr., is vice-president and secretary of the Illinois Water Service Company and manager of the Champaign and Pontiac plants. He is also vice-president of the Northern Illinois Water Corporation. He has held various offices and served on numerous committees in the American Water Works Association and written a variety of articles on water works engineering, as well as lectured and given addresses on his specialty. He is the recipient of the Fuller Award of the American Water Works Association. In community affairs outside his field of work, Mr. Amsbary has given leadership to health and welfare programs and civic projects and in time of war served in several different capacities on the home front in Champaign County.

Mr. Amsbary was born in Champaign on April 15, 1900, the son of Frank Clifford and Addie (Aydelott) Amsbary. His father, a native of Pekin, Illinois, who died on April 9, 1944, was also prominent in water works programs and in community activities. He was president of the Champaign-Urbana Water Company until December 31, 1926. He served three terms as president of the Champaign school board, two terms as president of the Champaign Club, two terms as president of the Champaign Chamber of Commerce and twelve years as president of the Champaign Young Men's Christian Association. For sixteen years he was on the Champaign Salvation Army Advisory Board. He was also a charter and honorary member of the Rotary Club of Champaign and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Masonic fraternity, in which he held the thirty-second degree. His wife, the daughter of John Charles and Adelia (Bradwell) Aydelott, also died on April 9, 1944.

Frank C. Amsbary, Jr., was educated in Champaign's public schools and at the University of Illinois, which awarded him the degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1922. He was elected at college to such fraternities as Phi Delta Theta, Theta Tau and Musan, social, engineering professional and municipal and sanitary engineering organizations, respectively. From June 1, 1923, to December 31, 1926, Mr. Amsbary was supervising engineer for the Champaign-Urbana



FRANK CLIFFORD AMSBARY, JR.

Water Company. On January 1, 1927, he assumed his present office as manager of the Champaign plant of the Illinois Water Service Company. Since 1938 he has been secretary and a member of the board of directors and since 1940 also vice-president. He became vice-president of the Northern Illinois Water Corporation in 1940.

On November 24, 1926, at Wilmette, Illinois, Mr. Amsbary married Frances Wright, daughter of Joseph C. and Ruth (McDaniel) Wright. Mr. and Mrs. Amsbary have two children—Robin, born in Champaign on July 27, 1927, and Frank Clifford Amsbary, III, born in Champaign on November 19, 1928. Miss Amsbary, after attending Champaign's elementary and high schools, took a course in interior decorating at the University of Colorado and was granted her degree in 1949. Frank C. Amsbary, III, who attended grade school in Champaign and then University High School, is now (1949) a pre-medical student at the University of Illinois. In World War II he served eighteen months in the Army, half that time in the occupation of Korea. The family home is at 812 West Clark Street, Champaign.

Mrs. Amsbary was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1926 and has served as a personnel assistant in the university's Office of Non-Academic Personnel.

In the American Water Works Association, Mr. Amsbary has been a trustee and vice chairman and chairman of the Illinois section; a member of the national board of directors, 1940-42; secretary and treasurer, 1941-1942, vice chairman, 1942-1943, and chairman, 1943-1944, of operators and plant management division; member of specifications committee on service line materials; chairman of the specifications committee on valve stop box and meterbox, and chairman of the advisory committee on the use of water in air conditioning. He is additionally well known in the organization by reason of the Fuller Award and his writings, five papers alone having been published in the association's journal. Also, he is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois.

In addition, Mr. Amsbary has served on the public utility advisory committee of the College of Commerce, University of Illinois, and has appeared on the program of the Illinois State Department of Health, in its oper-

ators' short courses at the university. He holds a State of Illinois Department of Public Health AA Operators Certificate covering both well and surface water supplies. During the World War II, he was zone coordinator in Emergency Water Corps as well as chairman of the Champaign County War Finance Committee, a position he held for twenty-one months and through which he was cited by the Treasury Department for distinguished service. Mr. Amsbary has been a member of the board of directors of the Champaign-Urbana Community Chest Association and served since 1939 on the board of the Champaign Salvation Army holding the office of Chairman of the Board for two terms. He was on the board of the Rotary Club for three terms holding the offices of vice-president and president and on the board of the Champaign Country Club two terms, serving also as secretary and president, and was a director of the Champaign County Credit Men's Association, 1945-47. He continues to serve the community and State in various public and quasi-public capacities.

HARRY HILL MESSICK

Harry Hill Messick was born in Charleston, Illinois, on May 17, 1881, the son of Thomas Wilmore Messick and Kate E. (Hill) Messick. Thomas Wilmore Messick, a native of Bartholomew County, Indiana, came to Illinois when he was twelve years old. For years he was a merchant in Charleston, first in groceries and later in shoes. Kate E. Hill Messick was born in Coles County, Illinois, the daughter of John B. and Mary Hill. Mound Cemetery of Charleston was founded by John B. Hill.

Harry Hill Messick, better known as H. H. Messick was educated in the Charleston Public Schools and the Terre Haute Business College in Terre Haute, Indiana. At the age of fourteen he obtained his first job at the H. F. Hill Bicycle Shop at a salary of three dollars a week, while he was still attending the Charleston Schools. Six years later, 1901, he became assistant bookkeeper in a wholesale house in Terre Haute. When he returned to Charleston he went into the employ of the firm of Boyd & Molter, broom corn brokers, later Mr. Messick purchased the interest of Mrs. Boyd and the business became known as Molter & Messick. Because of holdings in a company owning a plantation in the Louisiana Delta Mr. Messick spent a year as store and plantation manager for this company in

Louisiana. Upon his return to Charleston he became part owner in a retail clothing store in that city and assumed a position as clerk in the firm. He remained with this firm until 1908 when he entered the loan and finance business, later enlarging his business to include loan offices in several other Illinois cities. The financing of time sales of automobiles, electrical equipment and other merchandise has been the means of Mr. Messick's becoming well known in the state in the financing business.

Aside from his business Mr. Messick owns and manages several farms and business buildings in Charleston and Mattoon and throughout the county. He formerly served as a director of the Charleston State Bank and the National Bank of Charleston. At present he is one of seven directors of the Mound Cemetery Association, and a member of Rotary International. His inherent political affiliations are with the Republican Party, when that party produces the right material for public offices.

He is a lover of horses and keeps a saddle horse for his equestrian pleasure each Sunday morning when the weather is fit.

Mr. Messick is respected by all who know him. His ability on money matters and his judgement of farm lands have been self taught by the greatest teacher of all time, experience.

Harry Hill Messick was married to Bertha Belle Schmidt, daughter of Frederick and Eunice Schmidt of Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16, 1907 at the First Baptist Church, Indianapolis. Mrs. Messick is well known in Women's Club work having held offices both in her local club, of which she is a charter member, and in the State. She, too, is interested in farms and the loan businesses. To this union, on October 3, 1908, was born a son, their only child, named for his grandfather, Thomas Wilmore Messick. Thomas married Olivia J. Brennen of Mattoon, Illinois on June 20, 1934 where they make their home at 404 Wabash Avenue. Thomas is following in his father's footsteps learning and profiting by the elder Mr. Messick's experience in managing farm lands and finance businesses.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hill Messick have one of the lovely homes just outside of the city limits of East Charleston, where they enjoy the companionship of their family and friends.

KENNETH M. BAYER

The interests of Kenneth M. Bayer of Mount Vernon are varied and far-flung. He is not only an automobile dealer in the Jefferson County seat, but also an oil producer and contract driller. As automobile man, Mr. Bayer operates the Bayer Motor Company, an Oldsmobile firm, with plant and salesrooms at Tenth and Harrison, Mount Vernon. He is also a partner in the contract drilling firm of Bayer and Hunefelt Drilling Company, which after operating in Illinois is now in Texas. Mr. Bayer's oil activities extend through Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Texas. His headquarters for his oil activities are in the Rogers Building, Mount Vernon. He is a prominent citizen of Jefferson County.

Mr. Bayer was born in Mount Vernon on June 3, 1912, the son of Fred D. and Eliza (Tolley) Bayer. His father, who was born at Litchfield, in Montgomery County, has lived most of his life in Mount Vernon, where for years he was a grocer. He is now retired. Eliza Tolley Bayer, a native of Jefferson County, comes of a farming family. Kenneth Bayer went through the grade and high schools of Mount Vernon, then spent two years at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and a year at the School of Business Administration, Northwestern University, Evanston. When he left Northwestern he returned to Mount Vernon and established himself in practice as an accountant. In 1935 Mr. Bayer founded the Bayer Motor Company and since that time has been an outstanding Oldsmobile dealer. For two years his business was located on Mount Vernon's Broadway, but a fire destroyed the premises there, forcing removal to 121 North Ninth Street. In 1950 Mr. Bayer and his associates completed a new and modern plant at Tenth and Harrison. From 1935 to 1939, Mr. Bayer devoted himself entirely to the automobile business, but in 1939 he went into the oil business. His activities in this field have since spread into the other states. The Bayer and Hunefelt Drilling Company was formed in 1944. For two years this firm handled contracts in Illinois but since 1946 has been headquartered at Midland, Texas. Mr. Bayer has a national reputation among oil men.

Mr. Bayer, married twice, has a son by his first marriage, David Arnold Bayer, and another son by his second, Forrest Lee Bayer. His second wife is Mary Lou (Howell) Bayer, also of Mount Vernon. They were married in 1947. They worship in the First Methodist

This space reserved for the portrait of Kenneth M. Bayer

Church, in which both are active and prominent.

Mr. Bayer's leadership in the community has brought him many honors. For several years he was on the board of directors of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce. He is also active in the Green Hills Country Club of Mount Vernon. Fishing and hunting are his favorite recreations. A whole nation benefits when men like Kenneth M. Bayer take business risks in such fields of interest as oil production. He has contributed also to prosperity and pleasure in a somewhat related field, automobile distribution.

NORMAN FRANCE HIGGINS

Mattoon, in Coles County, had a population of 18,000, according to State of Illinois census estimates of 1949. In this thriving and growing community, the name of Higgins has come to be synonymous with business and civic activities designed to promote further growth and prosperity. The enterprise through which the Higgins brothers channel their major activities is the Higgins Oil and Higgins Implement Company, Inc., at 21st Street and Charleston Avenue, Mattoon. A major item they handle is Allis-Chalmers equipment. In this firm Norman France Higgins is the active partner.

Norman France Higgins was born in Oblong, Illinois, on July 10, 1909. His father is Lee A. Higgins and his mother the former Junia McCall, the daughter of Perry and Alice McCall of Oblong. Lee Higgins, also born at Oblong, was a farmer there before coming to Mattoon where he was a machinist's helper at the Big Four for a time.

Norman F. Higgins went through elementary school and the first year of high school. His high school year was in Mattoon. Then he began to work at the Gehl Hardware Store in Mattoon. After ten years there, he drove a tank wagon for the Phillips Oil Company, also for about ten years. Then, for two years he was a railroad man. At the end of the two-year period the Higgins Oil and Higgins Implement Company, Inc., was established at its present Mattoon address and it has grown greatly.

Mr. Higgins married Thelma E. Woodfall at Oblong on September 23, 1924. She is the daughter of Thomas Woodfall, who died on April 2, 1947, and Maude Woodfall, and has worked as an x-ray technician for Dr. C. E. Morgan in Mattoon. At present she is devoting herself to her housekeeping duties. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins reside on Rural

Route No. 2, Lake Mattoon, though their mail address is Box 74, Mattoon.

Mr. Higgins is secretary and treasurer of the Mattoon Implement Dealers Association and he is also active in the Retail Farmers Implement Association, as well as in the Mattoon Lodges of the Loyal Order of Moose, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Mattoon Association of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club of Mattoon. He is a Christian and a Republican. Fishing and hunting are his favorite recreations. In good health and of pleasing disposition, Mr. Higgins is a popular figure in Mattoon.

ARTHUR OLIVER BOWER

Arthur Oliver Bower of Bushton, in Coles County, is an internationally renowned livestock breeder—a man whose foundation animals have strengthened herds in many parts of the United States and in Latin-American countries—a winner of innumerable prizes at local, state and national shows. He also raises various crops. His establishment is known as Bowerhome Farms. Mr. Bower has done much to promote the welfare of farmers, stock raisers and dairy men in Coles County and helped to organize groups for the common good.

He was born at Cleveland, Ohio, on October 2, 1900, the son of Arthur E. and Mary Ann (Herrick) Bower. Arthur E. Bower, born on the family farm in Coles County, left the farm when he was eighteen to found the livestock commission business of Bower and Bower at Cleveland; his partner was his father, O. C. Bower. At present Arthur E. Bower is operating the Cleveland business, the oldest in its field in that city, with the assistance of another son, William Millard Bower, and a daughter, Mrs. E. J. Kanzeg (Lou Emily Bower). Arthur O. Bower was graduated from West Technical High School, Cleveland, and in 1922 took the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at Ohio State University. He was a member of the Dairy Cattle Judging team in 1921.

When he left college Mr. Bower came to Illinois to take over the family farm, where he has since remained. He has engaged in general farming, cattle feeding, hog raising and developing an outstanding herd of pure-bred Brown Swiss dairy cattle. The foundation for the herd was laid by Arthur E. Bower from 1916 to 1918, after having become certain his son, Arthur Oliver Bower, would on completion of his education take

over the farm. A. O. Bower showed the herd for the first time at the State Fair in 1918, and has continued to do so each year since. Many foundation animals have been sold in the United States and Central America. The Swiss herd has been shown at most middle-western State Fairs and at the Dairy Cattle Congress at Waterloo, Iowa. The herd has gone to various National Dairy Shows across the country from Syracuse, New York, to Treasure Island, San Francisco, California. He has won premier breeder and premier exhibitor ribbons at many of these national shows. His farm extends over five hundred acres.

Mr. Bower married Florence May O'Hair, daughter of H. Z. and Ida (Craig) O'Hair, in Coles County in 1924. She died in 1931. On June 11, 1936, at Charleston, Mr. Bower married Ione Lucille Bertolet, daughter of J. A. and Leni (Cochran) Bertolet. By his first marriage Mr. Bower became the father of Marianne Bower, born May 24, 1927, now Mrs. Loren Doyle and mother of Loren Craig Doyle; and Dora Louise Bower, born on November 10, 1930. To the second marriage Arthur Oliver Bower was born on July 10, 1939.

Mr. Bower was a director of the Coles County Farm Bureau for sixteen years and served two years as secretary. He helped organize, and served six years as president of, the Coles County Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He also helped organize the original AAA local and was its secretary five years. He helped organize the Prairie Farms Creamery of Champaign, a cooperative serving eleven counties. He was secretary of the creamery board for ten years and has since been its president. Elected to the board of the State-wide creamery cooperative, consisting of ten affiliated cooperatives, he has been president since 1947. From 1925 to 1949 he was on the board of the National Brown Swiss Association. He is past grand master of the Hindsboro Lodge, A. F. & A. M. He has been a deacon of the Bushton Christian Church since 1925 and is former superintendent of the Sunday School. He leads the singing of the Sunday School and Church each Sunday. He is one of Coles County's most popular and influential citizens.

CARL M. A. NORDHEDEN

In 1927, a young man and his wife, married less than four years, came to the United States from Sweden because, having started a small poultry and vegetable farm, they "de-

cided progress was too slow and wanted to try America." Since then that young man, Carl M. A. Nordheden, and his wife have been in the nursery business—and today their firm, West End Greenhouses, at 1200 North Goodwin Avenue, Urbana, ships to every state in the union as well as to Canada and has an international reputation.

Mr. Nordheden, the proprietor of West End Greenhouses, was born in St. Herrestad, Skane, Sweden, on January 28, 1898, and was naturalized an American citizen on May 20, 1936. His ancestors were all Swedish farmers, his grandfather, Marten Nils, owning and operating a large farm called Kistan. His father, Per Marten, died young, when Carl Nordheden was one year old, and this put a strain on the economy for the mother, nee Cecilia Gronberg, so that the grandmother, Marna Marten Nils, at the age of sixty-five, had to take and raise the child.

When Carl Nordheden was fourteen, he was through grade school and confirmed and, according to custom, had to make his own living. He entered the employ of a bakery, but after two years went to work in a factory making hats and caps. During this time he took courses in bookkeeping and office work from Hermods Correspondence School, at Malmo, Sweden. He also joined the studio circles in Tomelilla and visited the libraries steadily. All this "came in handy later," he says.

Soon the life of the outdoors beckoned him, and he decided to take up farming or something similar. He started at Flora Nursery in Tomelilla, later working in Hallenberg's Greenhouses at Sala and Grimstorp's Greenhouses at Sandhem.

In Sandhem he met the girl who was to become his wife—Elna Maria Levinsson. They were married on August 9, 1923. They then started a small poultry and vegetable farm, but, feeling progress was too slow, decided to "try America."

They came to the United States on February 25, 1927, and went to Rockford, Illinois. In the busy season Mr. Nordheden worked at Condon Bros. Greenhouses and in the off-season in factories. In 1930, he became grower foreman at the Williams Greenhouses in Berwyn and by 1931 he thought he knew enough about the English language and conditions here to start his own business. He leased the greenhouses of John P. Friedland, in Chicago, and in 1934 also took over G. Kornell's Greenhouses in that city. He oper-



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Nordheden and their son Albert inspecting Clyclamen seed plants and seedlings

ated under his present name, West End Greenhouses, and from the start his wife took an active part in the enterprise.

Mr. Nordheden saw a need for starting and growing young plants that could be shipped to other greenhouse operators who had either lost their own seedlings or neglected to start them in time. The business progressed and soon they had shipped plants to every State in the union and also to Canada. They have received requests from Europe, Puerto Rico and Hawaii, but so far transportation costs have not permitted shipping such long distances. They have also done some plant breeding and developed their own strain of Cyclamens and have produced some new varieties in other plants. In 1947 the place in Chicago was discontinued and the greenhouses were purchased in Urbana, the present location. The Nordhedens are continuing the plant breeding and shipping business, besides doing a local wholesale business in potted blooming plants.

Soon Mr. and Mrs. Nordheden will be joined in the business by their son, Albert Percy Erick Nordheden, who was born in Rockford on November 27, 1928. Now in his senior year at the University of Illinois, the son is majoring in floriculture and intends joining the firm when he graduates in June 1950. He is active in the Agriculture Club, the Floriculture Club, the Horticulture Club, the Pershing Rifles and the Dolphins' swimming fraternity. His hobbies are the same as his father's—fishing, skiing, sightseeing and color photography. There is also a daughter—Rita Maria Patricia Nordheden, who was born in Chicago on November 25, 1941. The Nordheden contribution to Illinois' agricultural and floricultural progress has been immeasurable.

JOHN DONALD GAINES

One of the best known and most enterprising real estate men in Central Illinois is John Donald Gaines of Mattoon. In the insurance as well as the real estate business, Mr. Gaines is an appraiser and loan agent for insurance companies in the Mattoon area. He is active in local organizations and especially in veterans' groups, being a veteran of World War II who served in important military capacities.

Born at Mattoon on January 3, 1924, Mr. Gaines is the son of John Henry and Eva Mae (South) Gaines. His father, a native of Janesville, is a retired railroad machinist. His mother, also born in Illinois, is the daughter

of Alexander and Kizzie (Houser) South. The real estate man was graduated from Longfellow Junior High School, Mattoon, as an honor man. His graduation from the Mattoon Senior High School occurred in June, 1943. He was on the B-team in basketball.

Mr. Gaines went into the military service directly from high school and was first stationed at Camp Grant, Illinois. Then he went to Truax Field, Madison, Wisconsin, for training in cryptographic, teletype and radio maintenance. On July 15, 1944, he left the States for South America and was stationed at Natal, Brazil. From Natal he went, on March 24, 1945, for the European Theater of Operations and was assigned to Ascension Island, with the rank of Sergeant. While at Natal, Mr. Gaines organized the squadron's basketball team. He was assigned to duty in the cryptographic department of the Army Air Corps Communication System. On January 18, 1946, Mr. Gaines returned to the States and eight days later was separated from the service at Fort Sheridan.

The following May Mr. Gaines was granted his real estate broker's certificate and until August, 1946, his office was in his home. He then moved into his first office, which he had remodeled in the Carus Icenogle Building, 1703 Broadway, Mattoon. Mr. Gaines had no more moved into his office in the downtown district when business began to expand with tremendous rapidity. It became necessary for him to employ four real estate salesmen to handle the great volume of transactions. After two years in the Icenogle Building, Mr. Gaines built one of the most ultra-modern real estate offices in Central Illinois—in the Okaw Building, his present location. He now has three licensed salesmen, his own auctioneer and his own building contractor. He is the appraiser in the Mattoon and Charleston area for the Midland Mutual Life Insurance Company of Columbus, Ohio, and loan agent in and around Mattoon for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Prudential Life Insurance Company, as well as the Midland Mutual.

Mr. Gaines is active in the Mattoon Chamber of Commerce; the Mattoon Lodge, Loyal Order of Moose; Illinois Lodge, No. 495, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at Mattoon; the Optimist Club of Mattoon, of which he is entertainment chariman, and Mattoon posts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. His church affiliation is with the Methodist Church. He is a Democrat and an ardent sports fan, especially

basketball. He organized his own independent basketball team which has never been defeated in the city basketball league since its organization. His team gained recognition throughout the state and midwest. He went to the finals in the State Tournament at Bloomington, the Commercial Solvents at Terre Haute, Indiana, and the Sullivan Invitational at Sullivan, Illinois.

Mr. Gaines resides with his family at 2405 Moultrie Avenue, Mattoon. He has two brothers, Harry E. Gaines, athletic director of the Mattoon Senior High School, and Kenneth W. Gaines; and two sisters, Frances Fern Gaines and Opal Madaline Gaines. He is known for his good physical condition, his amiable disposition and friendly nature. He is described, too, as one of the great builders of the future Mattoon.

CHARLES WESLEY HALL, JR.

The tall stalwart figure of Charles Wesley Hall, Jr., of DuQuoin is a familiar one throughout the Greater Egyptian area. In that section Mr. Hall is known for his leadership in the automobile business and in agriculture. He is also noted for devotion to civic and welfare work and to organizations dedicated to community and regional development.

Born in Mount Vernon on January 14, 1912, Mr. Hall is the son of Charles Wesley and Alice (Allen) Hall. His father, a physician and surgeon, who was born in Hamilton County, was the son of John Carroll Hall, a lawyer and Republican leader of that county and the grandson of Hiram W. Hall, who served in the Union Army in the Civil War with the rank of Colonel. Dr. C. W. Hall, Sr., was a Major in the United States Army Medical Corps in World War I. He was later active in the American Legion and in medical organizations and community affairs. Alice Allen Hall, born in Jefferson County on March 15, 1888, died on December 27, 1932. She was the daughter of John R. Allen, a member of a pioneer family of Jefferson County. C. W. Hall, Jr., had one brother, two years his senior. Born in 1910, the brother, John Allen Hall, died in 1930. Mr. Hall is a grand-nephew of Dr. Andy Hall, of Mount Vernon, Illinois, who was selected as the nation's outstanding physician in 1949.

C. W. Hall, Jr., went to the public schools of Mount Vernon. He graduated from the Mount Vernon High School in 1930, then attended the University of Arizona, Tucson, and the St. Louis University. In 1934 and

1935 Mr. Hall worked for the Davidson Bakery in Mount Vernon. Then he joined the General Motors Company's insurance division staff, working out of the St. Louis office as an automobile insurance adjuster, with headquarters in Carbondale. In 1940 Mr. Hall bought the Chevrolet agency in DuQuoin and since then has operated as the Hall Chevrolet Company, of which he is sole owner. He employs seventeen persons and has full shop facilities. He has become one of the best known automobile dealers in Perry County.

On October 31, 1936, Mr. Hall married Virginia Capps, the daughter of Paul and Bernice (Begemann) Capps, and they are the parents of five children—Alice, born on August 16, 1938; Charles W., III, born on September 14, 1942; Susan, born on October 28, 1943; Nancy, born on October 17, 1944, and Allen Capps, born on July 24, 1946. The Halls worship in the Methodist Church, in which Mrs. Hall is quite active.

Mr. Hall is a former vice-president of the DuQuoin Chamber of Commerce, and is also active in the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, the DuQuoin Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Greater Egyptian Association, the National Automobile Dealers Association and the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association. He is a Republican and golf is his favorite game. The owner of five hundred acres in Jefferson and Hamilton Counties, he is counted among the prosperous farmers. He further serves his fellow citizens through work with the American Red Cross. In World War II, he was active in War Bond drives. He is a figure of respect and admiration in downstate Illinois.

RALPH W. GOTHARD

An industrialist noted equally in the export and domestic trade, Ralph W. Gothard is the founder and president of the Gothard Manufacturing Company of Springfield, whose new and modern plant is one of the show pieces of industrial Springfield. The firm manufactures dynamotors, converters and motor generator sets. Mr. Gothard is active in community and state organizations.

He was born in Dundee, Illinois, on August 19, 1898, the son of William and Nellie (Nelson) Gothard, both also natives of this state. The father was a building contractor and farmer. Ralph Gothard received his early education in the elementary and high schools of Dundee and then attended the University of Illinois, from which he was graduated in



CHARLES WESLEY HALL, JR.

1921 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. His first job after leaving college was with the Kroehler Furniture Company of Kankakee. He worked first in the Kankakee plant and then in the Chicago plant, and eventually was transferred to the sales department. Resigning from the Kroehler company's employ in 1930, Mr. Gothard went to New York, where he was a manufacturers' representative for several large concerns until 1938. In that year he returned to his native Illinois and founded the Gothard Manufacturing Company in Springfield. From a small-scale operation. Mr. Gothard has developed his business into one of the largest in its field, and he sells his equipment in all parts of the United States as well as in foreign countries. Export represents about twenty per cent of his business. Mr. Gothard built his present and most modern plant in 1945. In its 18,000 square feet of floor space are employed one hundred persons most of the year. The dynamotor manufactured by Mr. Gothard is a combination, as its name suggests, of a dynamo and motor. It is used to a large extent in police patrol cars, in boats of various types and aircraft and all other mobile equipment needing more than the normal amount of electric current and more than can be supplied by the average battery. So extensive has this piece of equipment come to be used that its maker's name has come to be known in many areas of the World.

Mr. Gothard married Sue Bailey, who was born in Wisconsin in 1908, in Chicago on July 23, 1928. They have one son, William A. Gothard, who was born at Chicago on May 20, 1929. The son was graduated from the University of Illinois, his father's Alma Mater, in June, 1950, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Mr. Gothard's membership affiliations are with the Springfield Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the Liani Country Club of Springfield; the Chicago Athletic Club; the Sangamo Club; the Springfield Chamber of Commerce; the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce; and the Illinois Manufacturers Association. He gives considerable leadership to industrial innovations and to community programs.

HARVEY DAVID GREIDER

There was a time in the life of Harvey David Greider when, as a result of considerable wandering, he arrived in Decatur with one nickel in his pocket. Within five years of that time, he was the owner of a hotel

and on his way to wealth and a position of great importance in the community. By the time of his death in 1942, he had become one of Illinois' outstanding restaurant men, the owner and operator of the Decatur Restaurant at 161 East Main Street and the Greider Cafeteria, at 259 North Main Street.

Mr. Greider was born at Altamont on February 13, 1869, the son of Croft and Sara (Broom) Greider. Croft Greider is believed to have been born in Switzerland and to have migrated to Pennsylvania at a young age. After spending some time with the Pennsylvania Dutch settlements, he moved to Kentucky and then to Effingham County, Illinois. He operated a farm, which contained a small coal mine. Harvey Greider was educated in the country schools of Effingham County and in a Clinton business school. When he was twenty-one Mr. Greider left his father's farm and went to Montana, where he worked on the railroads and in the mines. Finding nothing satisfactory, he returned through Minnesota to Decatur about 1891, and it was then he found he was "worth only a nickel." Through a friend he was given a job on a ranch near Decatur, but later he took work as a handyman at the Illinois Central Hotel at the Decatur depot. In 1896, after about five years as hotel handyman, Mr. Greider bought a hotel in Clinton.

On April 29, that year, he married Mary Connelly, the daughter of Michael and Catherine Connelly, the ceremony having been performed at St. Patrick's Rectory, Decatur. Mrs. Greider, who survives her husband, assisted him in his restaurants from 1897 to 1913 on a part-time basis, generally as cashier. She bore him four children—1. Robert James Greider, who married Grace Rhea of Bloomington and is the father of Shirley Rhea and Mary Adele; 2. Lucile Katherine, who is now Mrs. James Walsh Kennedy of Miami, Florida and the mother of James Walsh Kennedy, Jr., and Harvey Greider Kennedy; 3. Harvey David Greider, Jr., who married Carolyn Kimball of Taylorville and is the father of Harvey David Greider, III, and John Kimball and Gretchen Ann Greider; and 4. Jack C. Greider, who married Rose Beretich of Chicago and is the father of Cecile Carolyn and Michael Anthony Greider.

After his marriage Harvey Greider took his bride to his Clinton hotel, and there remained one year. When the hotel burned, he returned to Decatur, and began in the restaurant business, later establishing branches in Bloomington and Springfield. About 1913

he sold the Bloomington restaurant and about 1915 the one in Springfield. The Springfield restaurant was a failure, but Mr. Greider declined to take refuge in bankruptcy. And at a time when he had two newly-born twin sons, he undertook to pay off \$30,000 in debts. What helped to clear the debts was an idea of his for making white bread out of mashed potatoes. This also helped to bring him the wherewithal for further developments in the restaurant business. In 1919 he moved his Decatur restaurant from the middle of the East Main Street block to its present location on the corner. It had previously been on the square in the Stein Building. In the latter part of the first decade of the century, Mr. Greider owned a restaurant he called his No. Two, but this he sold out. In June, 1925, he opened the Greider Cafeteria, and in 1935 he formed Greiders', Inc., which owned the two restaurants and now owns the cafeteria building also. He retained private ownership of the cafe building at East Main and Water Streets. Through incorporating, Mr. Greider safeguarded Mrs. Greider's interests. Today the four children own the stock in the corporation, Mrs. Greider having been provided for independently. On May 10, 1942, Mr. Greider died, and was buried in Calvary Cemetery. He had won the affection of the entire community.

LOTON ELISHA BRYANT

A man of many experiences, Loton Elisha Bryant of Charleston is one of the best known figures in Coles County. Now in the real estate business—he is associated with the Berkley Real Estate and Loan Company of Charleston—he has also worked as an electrical engineer and as sales executive for the Central Illinois Public Service Company.

Mr. Bryant was born on May 14, 1887, in Hickory Township, Coles County, the son of Benjamin Franklin and Mary Lavina (Tipton) Bryant. His father, a native of Edgar County, Illinois, was the inventor of the Bryant broom corn dump and came of a family which had pioneered in Kentucky and moved to Illinois in the early days. His mother, born in Indiana, celebrated her ninety-fourth birthday on May 15, 1949. She passed away September 28, 1949 and is interred at Union Cemetery, Greasy Point in Morgan Township, Coles County, Illinois.

Loton Bryant attended grammar school at Rardin, Illinois. Offered an opportunity to become a professional ballplayer, he declined because of his parents objections, and turned

to other interests. He was graduated from the Hurley School of Salesmanship in Chicago in 1924. In the meantime, in 1918, he had entered the dry cleaning business and later the electrical business. He installed the first farm light plant at the home of the late Dock Hawkins, five miles north of Oakland. It was at Oakland that Mr. Bryant owned his first automobile. Though it had had a previous owner, it was the first car in that community. This was in the days when Mr. Bryant was an automobile mechanic for Charles Chapman. Since that first car, a pioneer Oldsmobile, he has owned twenty-four. He is now driving his twenty-fifth car. Before he became a mechanic, Mr. Bryant spent thirteen years as a farmer, starting at ten years of age and earning ten dollars a month. He worked four years as an electrical engineer and then became local superintendent for the Central Illinois Public Service Company at Oakland. For twenty years he was a salesman in the commercial department. Altogether he was with this concern for thirty years. For five years he was with the Federal Electric Company of Chicago, as contact man covering all the Central Illinois Public Service Company's property and training salesmen. He covered six divisions, comprising 492 Illinois towns.

In 1942 Mr. Bryant resigned this position to become associated with the Berkley Real Estate and Loan Company in Charleston. Mr. Berkley confines himself to the office, Mr. Bryant being outside man. Their sales activities have helped development in their community and area considerably. Their office is at 413 South Seventh Street, Charleston. This is the business in which Mr. Bryant will remain, he says.

Mr. Bryant married Addie Edna Stites, daughter of N. S. and Martha (Gerard) Stites, in Coles County on July 23, 1910. Like her husband Mrs. Bryant is active in the Christian Church of Oakland. In this church Mr. Bryant is former chairman of the board and assistant Sunday School superintendent. Organizer of a Christian Endeavor Young Peoples Society, he was its president for a time. Mr. and Mrs. Bryant had a foster daughter, Thelma Irene Vitato, born at Oakland on February 20, 1916. She completed her schooling at the Charleston High School with the Class of 1934 and then became the wife of Russell Dale Johnson, a Charleston farmer. By a most unfortunate accident, Mrs. Johnson was burned to death when an explosion set fire to her home. She had become the



LOTON ELISHA BRYANT

mother of a daughter, Barbara Lou, who, fortunately, was with Mr. and Mrs. Bryant at the time of the explosion. Mr. Johnson was away from home, at work. Thelma Johnson is remembered by all the people in the area as an active church worker with an attractive personality, sweet disposition and generous character.

Mr. Bryant is himself also popular among his fellow citizens, a man to whom many come for advice.

HON. ALVIN ALFRED BRAY

Among the group giving leadership to the development of agriculture, industry and general progress in Champaign County, the Honorable Alvin Alfred Bray of Urbana is outstanding. He is not only secretary and manager of the Champaign County Fair Association, but has long taken an important role in the political and public affairs of the county. He is a foremost figure in the Republican organization of the county and is a former supervisor of Cunningham Township.

Born in Clay County, Illinois, on May 14, 1910, Alvin Alfred Bray is the youngest of the eight children of Oliver Morton and Anna (Peters) Bray. His father, a prominent farmer in Clay County, is now retired. His mother, who was also a native of Illinois, died in 1929.

Mr. Bray received his elementary school education in Clay, Coles and Champaign Counties and in 1930 was graduated from the Urbana High School. Until 1948 he was on the staff of the Illinois State Department of Revenue, the State's collection agency for the various taxes imposed by the legislature. In 1948 he was made secretary and manager of the Champaign County Fair Association, in recognition of his long services to and great interest in farmers and agriculture.

On July 17, 1938, Mr. Bray married Irene Jane Rebmon of Urbana and they are now the parents of two daughters—Judith Ann Bray, who was born on May 30, 1940, and Karen Sue Bray, who was born on February 28, 1944. The Bray family lives at 706 West Illinois Street, Urbana, and worships in the First Methodist Church of that city.

Mr. Bray has served three terms as a supervisor of Cunningham Township. He has taken an active part in the work of the Boy Scouts of America in Champaign County and he is former chairman of the board of governors of the Illinois Young Republicans Club. At present, he is secretary of the Champaign County Republican Central Committee. He is

also active in the Urbana Lodge, No. 154, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is active in the First Methodist Church of Urbana. Hunting and fishing are his favorite recreations. Of genial disposition and a good mixer, Mr. Bray has won the affection of everyone with whom he has come in contact in the course of the important work he is doing and has done.

GEORGE BOWMAN MADDEN

Few men in Central Illinois are better known as industrialists than George Bowman Madden, president and chairman of the board of directors of the A. W. Cash Valve Manufacturing Corporation of Decatur. He is one of Decatur's civic leaders and prominent churchmen and is active in community organizations and in the Masonic fraternity.

Mr. Madden was born at Macon, near Decatur, in Macon County, on September 27, 1901, the son of George Bowman and Julia Elizabeth (Schudel) Madden. His father, a native of Burras, Louisiana, and a school teacher who studied for the Methodist ministry, died on February 14, 1901. The mother, who was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Seng) Schudel, was a school teacher. The present George Bowman Madden began his education in Decatur's public schools. In June, 1918, he was graduated from the Decatur High School and from 1918 through 1920 he studied at James Millikin University, Decatur. In the semester of 1920-1921, he was at Northwestern University, Evanston. He was initiated in Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. Mr. Madden began his business career as an employee of the A. W. Cash Machine Shop, Decatur, in February, 1921. When the business was incorporated as the A. W. Cash Valve Manufacturing Corporation on December 5, 1923, he was made secretary. In January, 1928, Mr. Madden purchased the controlling interest in the enterprise and since then has been president and chairman of the board. In 1941 he built the Madden Building, at the corner of Wabash and Morgan Streets, Decatur, and since then it has been occupied by his manufacturing corporation.

On March 12, 1921, at Springfield, Mr. Madden married Opal Maurine Ennis, the daughter of William D. and Estella (Rannebarger) Ennis of Cisco, Illinois. Mrs. Madden, active in the Decatur Chapter, American Red Cross, was one of the leading workers in the Decatur Canteen in World War II. She is also active in the First Methodist Church of Decatur. Mr. Madden is a former

member of the church board. Mr. and Mrs. Madden and the younger of their two sons reside at 1412 West Sunset Street, Decatur. The sons are Dean Ennis Madden, born in 1921, vice-president of the A. W. Cash Valve Manufacturing Corporation, president of the Illinois State Junior Chamber of Commerce, whose home is at 605 South Crea Street, Decatur, and who married Marylyn Ann Amdal of Champaign on June 4, 1944, and is the father of David John Madden, born September 24, 1949; and George William Madden, born in 1925, secretary of the valve manufacturing corporation.

George B. Madden, a former director and treasurer of the Decatur Association of Commerce, continues a leading figure in that organization. Also, he is active in the Decatur Club and such Masonic bodies as the Knights Templar and Ansar Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Springfield. He is a Republican. His hobby is the collecting of guns. He is a popular and influential citizen of Decatur.

MURL STALCUP

A firm which, if its owner's intentions come to fruition, will be "one of the best glass companies in Central Illinois" is the Coles County Glass Company at Mattoon. Considering the owner's success in all his undertakings, this ambition is bound to be realized. The owner is Murl Stalcup, who is a former field representative of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company in the East Central Illinois territory and whose firm now handles Pittsburgh products. Glass is not the only interest of Mr. Stalcup. Being a veteran of World War I, he is active in the American Legion, and he is also a participant in civic and community theater affairs.

Murl Stalcup was born in Linton, Indiana, on November 3, 1895, the son of George and Mary F. (Pirtle) Stalcup. His father, a native of the area near Independence, Kansas, was the first white child born in the Southern part of that State and was reared near Indian reservations. A grocery and meat market operator, he died on September 26, 1936. Mary Stalcup, daughter of William and Mary Pirtle, died on December 3, 1946.

Murl Stalcup is a graduate of Jasonville High School, where he played football and the trumpet in the high school orchestra. He obtained additional education at the Engineering Military School, Washington Barracks, Washington, D. C., in World War I. He went into

the service on March 27, 1917, at Camp Zachary Taylor, Louisville, Kentucky, and from there to Washington Barracks. As a member of the Army Engineer Corps he served in South England, Wales and France. He was in the Meuse-Argonne drive from Metz and in the Verdun sector. For six months after the Armistice, he was with the Army of Occupation in Germany.

Mr. Stalcup began his business career at Whiting, Indiana, where he was a grocer. He sold his store to join his father in business at Jasonville. This enterprise was also sold, and after that Mr. Stalcup was a salesman for several years for the Northern Indiana Power Company. He then traveled throughout the United States and Canada for the Always Hot Electric Water Heater Company, eventually rising to sales manager, but subsequently returning to the grocery and meat business this time at Muskogee, Oklahoma, where he remained seven years. At the end of this period he went back to Indiana, and there went into the home appliance business for himself, continuing until World War II shut off the supply of merchandise. In the war period Mr. Stalcup worked as an expediter for the Eslinger-Misch Company of Detroit at the Vigo Ordnance Plant, Terre Haute. When the plant was ready for operation and turned over to Continental Can Company, Mr. Stalcup became associated with the Underwriters Adjustment Company in Indianapolis, becoming a field worker stationed at Evansville, Terre Haute, Fort Wayne and Indianapolis. This required too much traveling, so he became field representative for the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company traveling the East Central Illinois territory out of Terre Haute. As a result Mattoon became his home and he bought the Coles County Glass Company, now building into "one of the best glass companies in Central Illinois."

Mr. Stalcup married Georgia Wiltse, daughter of George and Prudence Wiltse, in Sullivan, Indiana, on December 31, 1922. Mrs. Stalcup has been a school teacher and bookkeeper.

There are two sisters—Frances Mary, the wife of Herman Irmiger, and Mamie, wife of Harry Price and mother of William Gene, Mary Alice and Harry Price, Jr. Mr. Stalcup lives at 1008 Charleston Street, Mattoon, and worships in the Christian Church.

Mr. Stalcup is a member of the American Legion, the Hi-Noon Club, the Chamber of Commerce and Community Theater, as well



MURL STALCUP

as the Masonic order. He is an ardent booster of Mattoon and is aiding the growth of that city and all Central Illinois.

RAYMOND W. STOLTEY

The firm of Ray Stoltey Company, wholesale distributor of restaurant and food supplies, is known throughout a wide territory in the Illinois-Indiana region, and its founder, Raymond W. Stoltey, is one of the most active citizens of the area. His headquarters are at 512 North Goodwin Avenue, in Urbana. An Air Force veteran of the Second World War, Mr. Stoltey now takes a leading part in the affairs of the American Legion in Champaign.

He was born in Urbana on November 3, 1906, the son of Harry C. and Katherine (Ferris) Stoltey. Both parents were also born in Illinois. The father, who was a prominent grocer in Urbana, died in 1933. The mother continues her residence in that city.

Raymond Stoltey began his education in the elementary schools of the campus city and went on to the Urbana High School, from which he was graduated in 1924. Five years later he was graduated from the University of Illinois, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He had taken the university's liberal arts course. At the university he was elected to Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity.

After leaving college Mr. Stoltey became salesman for Swift and Company, with which he remained four years. Upon the death of his father in 1933, he took over the operation of the grocery business, which he supervised until 1939. After that he interested himself in various other fields. In 1943, he entered the United States Army Forces, in which, after training, he became an instructor. He served until 1946.

On April 1, 1948, Mr. Stoltey entered business for himself as a distributor of restaurant and food supplies, under his present firm name, Ray Stoltey Company, and he has since operated with warehouse and office on Urbana's Goodwin Avenue. The operations of the business have, under his direction, extended into a large territory.

Mr. Stoltey married Margaret Clark of Decatur on June 14, 1940. They have two children—Raymond W. Stoltey, Jr., who was born on September 19, 1943, and Jane Catherine Stoltey, who was born on January 3, 1946. Mr. Stoltey's home is at 56 East Chalmer Street, Champaign.

Aside from the American Legion, Mr. Stoltey is a member of the Campus Business As-

sociation, the United Commercial Travelers and the Urbana Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He worships at the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana. He is an independent voter and a follower of all outdoor sports.

Operator of a business in the vital food industry, Mr. Stoltey is helping to maintain the progress of his community, State and region.

HAROLD M. OSGOOD

Since 1900 the manufacturing dress firm of Osgood and Sons, Inc., has been contributing to the commercial and industrial growth and the general welfare and prosperity of Decatur and Central Illinois. In the half century that has elapsed, and as the business has grown, the Osgoods have, through the enterprise and through other channels, made a personal contribution. The oldest son of the founder, Harold M. Osgood is president of the business today, and with his two brothers and a fine organization has conducted a business with their main plant in Decatur and branch factories at Warsaw and Eldorado, Illinois. Mr. Osgood has shown extraordinary leadership in the community in movements that have benefitted every citizen.

He was born in Decatur on May 24, 1894, son of James Willard Osgood, a native of Hillsdale, Michigan, and Isabelle Louise (Palmer) Osgood. From 1911 to 1913 Harold M. Osgood was attending James Millikin University, Decatur, and from 1913 to 1916 studied at the Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science in Economics. He was an active member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity of both universities. In 1915-16 was manager of the University of Pennsylvania varsity swimming and water polo teams. In July, 1916, Mr. Osgood became associated with the firm his father had founded in August, 1900. In 1928, he was elected vice-president and in 1936, when the business was reorganized, he was elevated to the presidency. Osgood and Sons, Inc., employs over four hundred persons in its three plants, and twenty-six field representatives sell its merchandise (ladies' dresses) to over 4,000 retailers throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

On May 31, 1922, at Wichita, Kansas, Mr. Osgood married Nadine Noll, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Noll. Mrs. Osgood is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and of the P. E. O. Sisterhood in Decatur. She and Mr. Osgood have two

daughters—Isabelle Louise, now Mrs. William R. McGaughey, Jr., and mother of William Douglas McGaughey, and Shirley Nadine, now Mrs. Hilmer C. Landholt and mother of Barbara and Hilmer George Landholt. Mr. and Mrs. Osgood live at 82 Southmoreland Place, Decatur.

Mr. Osgood's leadership in civic affairs began the day he rose to the vice presidency of Osgood and Sons, Inc., or a bit sooner. He served on the board of directors of the Kiwanis Club of Decatur from 1927 to 1931, and in 1929 was secretary. From 1943 to 1948 he served on the board of the Decatur Association of Commerce; in 1945 and 1946 he was vice-president and in 1947 he was made president. During his administration as president of the association, he led it and the city through numerous reforms and improvements: taxation, highway and street development, conservation methods for Lake Decatur, city parking, industrial expansion and numerous other important matters. In 1946-1950 he was a director of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce and from 1944 to 1947 he was a director of the Decatur and Macon County Community Chest, of which he became president in 1946. In 1947, he was elected vice-president of the James Millikin University Alumni Association. In industrial affairs, Mr. Osgood has also exercised leadership. He was a director from 1937 to 1950 of the Chicago Wash Apparel Association, serving that organization as treasurer from 1939 to 1946. In World War I he served as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. He worships in the Christian Science Church and is a Republican. Golf, riding and fishing are his favorite recreations. This five-foot-nine, 175-pound citizen with the white hair is a familiar figure in many leading activities on behalf of Decatur and Central Illinois.

JEAN Q. TICK

One of the largest wholesale distributing firms in Downstate Illinois is the Paul Tick Liquor Company, which has its headquarters in Springfield and maintains branches in that city, Centralia and Cairo. Of this large firm, founded by his father, Jean Q. Tick is general manager. Mr. Tick is also prominent in the community life of Springfield and, a veteran of World War II, in ex-servicemen's circles.

Mr. Tick was born in Decatur on April 19, 1919, the son of H. Paul Tick and Florence (Bowman) Tick. The father established the

Paul Tick Liquor Company in Decatur in 1932 and the firm, under his and his son's joint direction, has expanded into its present large dimensions in the comparatively few years that have since elapsed.

Jean Q. Tick began his education in a grade school in Decatur and continued at Alton. Graduated from the Western Military Academy, he completed his education at Northwestern University, at Evanston, where in 1941 he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science in the School of Commerce.

In the year of his graduation—and on July 11, 1941—Mr. Tick married Shirley Smith of Pittsburg, Kansas. Mrs. Tick had a distinguished scholastic career. Throughout her school years in Kansas, she placed high in scholarship. Then she went to the University of Kansas at Lawrence and there, at the age of eighteen, took her degree of Bachelor of Arts, a rare performance. She continued her education at Northwestern University, from which she received the degree of Master of Arts. It was at Northwestern that she met the young man who married her the year they took their final degrees. Mr. and Mrs. Tick have two sons, James Lawrence Tick, who was born on March 3, 1948, and Robert Michael Tick, born February 18, 1950.

When the United States was precipitated into World War II by the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, Mr. Tick offered his services to the armed forces. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and was attached to the United States Infantry. He was in the service two years.

In his association with his father in the operation of the Paul Tick Liquor Company, Jean Q. Tick has risen to the responsible post of general manager and to him is attributed much of the company's recent development and expansion. The firm is the distributor of a variety of alcoholic beverages, including wines, cordials, gin, whiskey and beer. The headquarters were moved from Decatur to Springfield in 1935, three years after the founding of their firm. The company serves thirty counties from its branches and does a tremendous annual volume, inasmuch as it carries all the popular brands. Thirty-nine persons are employed in the business, and there are ten trucks in constant operation. Jean Tick has become an outstanding figure in the liquor business. He is also well known in the American Legion, the American Business Men's Club of Springfield, the Springfield Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective

This space reserved for the portrait of Jean Q. Tick

Order of Elks and the Springfield Lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose. His hobbies are deep sea fishing and collecting U. S. Mint stamps. He is popular among his fellow business men and the general public.

LOUIS BELINSON, M.D.

A physician well known for years in the field of mental disease and prominent in institutional administration, Dr. Louis Belinson is now superintendent and medical director of the Jacksonville State Hospital at Jacksonville, Morgan County. He has been making his public career in the Mental Health Service of the Illinois State Department of Public Welfare since 1936.

Dr. Belinson was born in Brooklyn, New York, on January 5, 1907, the son of Edward and Bessie (Levine) Belinson and after attending elementary and grade schools in Lynbrook, New York, began his pre-medical studies at New York University. He was at that institution from 1925 to 1928. Transferring to the University of Wisconsin, Madison, he took his degree of Bachelor of Arts there in 1930. From 1931 to 1933, Dr. Belinson was a student at the Loyola University School of Medicine, Chicago, and thereafter until 1935, he was at Rush Medical College, Chicago, where he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Dr. Belinson was still preparing for the profession when, on December 24, 1932, he was married to Mildred Springberg. The wedding took place in Madison, Wisconsin. They have two children—Michael Alan Belinson and Jerome Leslie Belinson.

From 1935 through 1936 Dr. Belinson served an internship at Chicago Memorial Hospital. From 1936 to 1937, he was junior physician at the Lincoln State School and Colony, Lincoln, Illinois. His rise in the Mental Health Service began when in 1937, he was appointed senior physician at the Elgin State Hospital, Elgin, Illinois. The post he held until 1941 when he rose to assistant superintendent at the Dixon State Hospital, Dixon, Illinois. In 1942, Dr. Belinson returned to the Lincoln State School and Colony as Acting Superintendent and Medical Director and he was there until 1946. When the former superintendent returned from military leave, Dr. Belinson returned to his previous assignment as Assistant Superintendent at the Dixon State Hospital. In 1948, he was promoted to Superintendent of that institution at the death of its Medical Director. On September 1, 1949, he was transferred to the Jacksonville

State Hospital as Superintendent and has remained in that capacity. He is a member of the Honorary Seminar of Loyola Medical School; of the Masonic Order and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and various professional organizations which include the following: fellowships in the American Psychiatric Association, American Association on Mental Deficiency, the American Medical Association. He is a member of the American Society of Electroencephalographers, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Illinois Psychiatric Society, and others. He is a member of the Illinois National Guard with the rank of Major being assigned to the 129th Infantry Regiment, 44th Division, as Regimental Surgeon. He and his family worship in the Jewish Faith. The possessor of a reputation as physician and psychiatrist and as hospital administrator, Dr. Belinson is also a well-liked individual and organization worker.

JAMES F. LEMNA, LL.B.

Douglas County counts among its more prominent attorneys James F. Lemna of Tuscola, the county seat. In practice there since 1939, Mr. Lemna has served the entire region not only as a member of the bar but as a citizen interested in the promotion of welfare and public development. He served with the United States Navy in World War II.

Born at Piper City, Ford County, on September 11, 1914, James F. Lemna is the son of William F. Lemna, a native of Dwight, in Livingston County, and division manager of the Morman Manufacturing Company, and Rose M. (Molloy) Lemna, who was also born in Piper City. The attorney is a graduate of the Kankakee High School and of the University of Illinois. In 1938 the university's College of Law awarded him the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Mr. Lemna began his practice as a partner of W. W. Reeves of Tuscola. Their firm was called Reeves and Lemna. Mr. Reeves died in 1940, and since then Mr. Lemna has maintained his own law offices. He is engaged in a general practice of law.

On August 14, 1940, at Kankakee, Mr. Lemna married Jeralaine Bourgeois, and they have two sons—Michael C. Lemna, born in 1943, and Timothy J. Lemna, born in 1947. The family lives at 215 East Daggy Street, Tuscola, and worships in the Roman Catholic Church there.

Mr. Lemna took a military leave of absence, so to speak, from his practice and accepted

a commission in the United States Navy in 1943. He served in the European, American and Pacific Theaters of Operations as Armed Guard Officer, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade, and was separated from the service in 1945. Since then he has been active in his profession and in civic affairs at Tuscola.

He has served as a member of the Douglas County branch of the Illinois Office of Price Administration and is chairman of the Douglas County Chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Also, he is active in the Douglas County Bar Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Loyal Order of Moose, the American Legion and Optimist International. One of the younger group of progressive Americans who are serving their nation in its postwar development, James F. Lemna has already achieved considerable local fame in Douglas County and appears ready for a reputation on a larger scale.

**ALBERT LEMUEL WHITING,
B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.**

The name of Dr. Albert Lemuel Whiting of Urbana is immediately recognized as that of the world-famed agricultural scientist or agronomist. The first man to establish a division of soil biology at an American university, Dr. Whiting is also the founder and head of the Urbana Laboratories at Urbana wherein are produced the renowned Urbana Cultures which have aided agricultural development not only in the United States but in European and South American countries. Dr. Whiting has been a teacher, experimenter and researcher in the agricultural world since his young manhood.

He was born at Stoughton, Massachusetts, on May 12, 1885, the son of Albert Hayden and Morilla Frances (Gould) Whiting. His father, also a native of Stoughton, was a manufacturer of shoe heels. After attending Stoughton's grade and high schools, Dr. Whiting worked his way through the four years of study at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, spending two years on the farm and two years in looking after the veterinary building and hospital. He conducted the feeding experiments on the toxicity of lead arsenate on dairy cattle for the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station. In 1908 Dr. Whiting joined the staff of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station at Kingston, and there conducted field

experiments on the inoculation of soy beans, alfalfa and clover scattered over the State. Also, he taught veterinary science in the college at Kingston. He had received the degree of Bachelor of Science from the University of Massachusetts. When he finished at Rhode Island State College, he was awarded the degree of Master of Science.

In 1909 Dr. Whiting grew inbred strains of flint corn and crosses on the family's Massachusetts farm with large increases in yield. In 1910 he received a Fellowship in Agronomy at the University of Illinois where he prepared his doctor's thesis on material proving that atmospheric nitrogen enters through legume roots and not through leaves. Even before he received his degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Dr. Whiting was associated with Dr. Cyril G. Hopkins, the world renowned agronomist, and he continued working with him until his death. Dr. Hopkins' Illinois system of soil fertility and permanent agriculture has proved to be and still offers the only method for a permanent and profitable agriculture, in the opinion of Dr. Whiting. At the University of Illinois Dr. Whiting established the first division of soil biology in an American university. He directed the development of this science by measuring the activity of soil micro-organisms in their relation to the availability, accumulation and conservation of plant food elements. He was made Professor of Soil Biology in the College of Agriculture and Chief in Soil Biology in the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Illinois, and taught advanced fertility courses. Also, he published numerous bulletins, laboratory manuals and articles dealing with nitrogen-fixation and plant food liberation. Dr. Whiting is one of less than a half dozen scientists who have remained in this field of study constantly, and in 1949 he was entering his fifth decade in the field.

In 1925 Dr. Whiting joined the staff of agricultural bacteriology at the University of Wisconsin and initiated extensive field experiments throughout that State on the inoculation of peas and beans, and he has since been active in both Illinois and Wisconsin in these and similar experiments. He began strain-variation studies of legume nodule bacteria (nitrogen-fixing bacteria) which have been continued by him ever since in a large way in the field, greenhouse and laboratory. In 1919 Dr. Whiting established experiments at the request of large processors of peas.



ALBERT LEMUEL WHITING, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.

These resulted in such a large demand for a successful pea inoculant that a laboratory for their production was started in the basement of Dr. Whiting's home. This business, The Urbana Laboratories, has grown to be national and international in scope because of the scientific care in preparation and the large profitable increases the product, Urbana Culture, has produced in various legume crops such as alfalfa, clover, soy beans, peas, beans, lespedeza and others. Special strains are produced for exclusive use on special varieties. Chemical soil tests are distributed widely in this and other countries. Some were developed by cooperation between the University of Illinois and the Urbana Laboratories. Agricultural surveys have been made for more than twenty years for the leading canners and freezers of vegetables in order to locate plants in strategic areas for successful growing of specialty crops. Since 1917 Dr. Whiting has examined a large amount of the pea acreage of the United States annually. Germany and France conducted experiments with Dr. Whiting's inoculants and gave official recommendation for their use and they are now used extensively not only in Europe but in South America.

Dr. Whiting married Lucille DuBois, daughter of the Reverend Daniel and Alice (Morris) DuBois, at Hennepin, Putnam County, on December 30, 1914. Mrs. Whiting is a bacteriologist of the Urbana Laboratories. She is also president of the Women's Society of Christian Service and of the board of managers of the Cunningham Children's Home. Their children are Alice Elizabeth, the wife of Richard D. Colburn and mother of Richard Whiting, Carol Dunton and Keith Whiting Colburn; and Barbara Lucille, the wife of Theodore H. Frison and mother of Theodore Whiting Frison born September 25, 1949.

Dr. Whiting is trustee of several trust funds and a trustee and vice-president of the Wesley Foundation, a trustee of the Carle Foundation, a director of the Urbana Home Loan Association and a member of the official board of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church of Urbana. He was a "Dollar a Year Man" on the Council of Defense in World War I and also an instructor in military hygiene and sanitation. He is a Republican and his hobbies are travel and color motion pictures. His services have been invaluable to the State, nation and the world.

ROBERT CHRISTIAN HERMAN WAGNER and WILLIAM ANDREW WAGNER, B.S.

In 1948, the firm of Wagner and Son, with headquarters at 301 Water Street, Champaign, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of service to the twin cities, Champaign and Urbana. By that time, however, the founder, Robert Christian Herman Wagner, had been deceased for a quarter of a century and his son, William Andrew Wagner, had been guiding the business for that long. It was the elder Mr. Wagner who saw the business through many vicissitudes from its earliest days and included in his experience were the difficulties of the Spanish-American and First World Wars. It is the son who is responsible for the modern development of this company and, veteran of World War I himself, he took the firm successfully through the problems of World War II.

Robert C. H. Wagner was born in Chicago on January 22, 1858, the son of Louis and Mathilda (Stroehlein) Wagner. The father, born in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1830, came to the United States in 1850, worked for a time in Chicago as a cabinet maker and then moved to Urbana in 1859. There he operated a furniture factory and undertaking business. He served with the Union Army in the Civil War. Mathilda Wagner was born in Muenchenberg, Bavaria, in 1831. There was also a daughter, Sophia.

After receiving his education in Urbana's schools, Robert C. H. Wagner went to work with the Iron Mountain Railroad and became a car repair foreman. Later he was superintendent of the gas company in Champaign and in the early 1890's he served as street superintendent. In 1898, he launched his own business, teaming and excavating. In 1903 he added retail coal sales and in 1911 he built his storage warehouse at the present address. In World War I he served as superintendent of teams at Chanute Field, Camp Grant, the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and at Camp Custer in the course of their construction and in their maintenance. After the war he started replacing his teams with trucks for moving and coal deliveries. In 1919, Mr. Wagner took on retail sales of automobiles and trucks and was so engaged until his death in 1922.

Robert C. H. Wagner married Mary Ann Brown on January 3, 1884. Born on December 12, 1862, Mrs. Brown was the daughter of John Brown (1825-1904) and Mary Ann

(Rohrer) Brown (1832-1901), both of whom were German immigrants. Mrs. Wagner died on June 11, 1946, and is buried alongside her husband in the family plot in Mount Hope Cemetery. She was a member of the Royal Neighbors of America, but chiefly, as her son describes her, "a homebody who loved her home, yard and flowers."

Robert Wagner was a member of the Masonic order, including the Blue Lodge and Knights Templar; the Modern Woodmen of America and the Champaign Chamber of Commerce. He worshiped in St. Peter's Evangelical Reformed Church and liked fishing, hunting, traveling and music. Automobiles and horses were among his loves. He was known for his energy and vitality, his tolerance and his faith in the future of Champaign, in which he invested heavily.

There were four children—Robert Charles Wagner, Mary Elizabeth Wagner, William Andrew Wagner and John Wagner, a twin of Mary Elizabeth's who died at birth.

William Andrew Wagner was born in Champaign on December 1, 1893, and was graduated from the Champaign High School in 1911. He then completed his education at the University of Illinois, where he took the degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering in 1915. From the moment he left college Mr. Wagner became associated with his father in business, and the firm became Wagner and Son. In World War I he was a Corporal in Headquarters Company, 332nd Field Artillery, 86th (Blackhawk) Division, and was overseas from September, 1918, to February, 1919.

After his father's death on September 7, 1922, William Wagner assumed the control of Wagner and Son, and has since built it to its present form. With the advent of World War II, he discontinued the automobile business and devoted himself full time to the storage and moving business and retail coal sales. By the time of the fiftieth anniversary celebration in 1948, the firm was one of the best known in its field in Central Illinois.

William Andrew Wagner married Edith Henrietta Patzwith, daughter of Frederick and Edith (Wilsky) Patzwith, in Champaign on September 9, 1924. From 1911 to the time of her marriage Mrs. Wagner was head bookkeeper for the Citizens State Bank of Champaign. She is active in the Champaign Unit, No. 24, American Legion Auxiliary.

Mr. Wagner, a leader in Champaign Post, No. 24, American Legion, was the commander in the year 1941-42. He is also active in

the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and was a charter member, in 1921, of the Kiwanis Club of Champaign. He is a communicant of St. Mary's Catholic Church and is a Republican. Hunting, fishing and travel are also his favorite recreations. He is an ardent spectator of football and basketball. His home is at 605 South First Street, Champaign.

Like his father, William Arthur Wagner has the skill and personality to win many friends and to contribute greatly to the development of a community.

JOSEPH TOWNSLEY TUCKER

Section 17, Illini Township (Warrensburg), in Macon County, is the birthplace and longtime home of a man who has for decades been an outstanding figure in the farming and cattle world—Joseph Townley Tucker. Mr. Tucker, who is one of the leaders in fraternal life, especially Masonry, is a one-time winner of great prizes at the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago and is a man whose cattle operations extended, in the old days of the "Wild West," into Texas and Wyoming.

He was born on January 25, 1872, the son of Joseph Clough and Emma (Ferree) Tucker. His father, born in Merrimac County, New Hampshire, December 19, 1838, was a resident of Macon County from 1861 until his death September 14, 1903. His great-grandfather was the Reverend Jedediah Tucker, a native of Massachusetts who pioneered in New Hampshire in 1784, and his father was Major Cyrus Tucker, a prominent citizen of that state. Joseph Clough Tucker was for a time a teacher in his native state, but when he settled in Macon County he became a farmer who achieved leadership in political and public affairs and in Masonry.

Joseph T. Tucker, on completing his schooling at Warrensburg when he was eighteen, went to work as a clerk in the store of G. W. Thompson. After fifteen months he returned to the homestead on Section 17 and since then has been engaged in fattening cattle for the market, mostly the white-faced breed. He now farms 640 acres. He has bought cattle nearly every year from the western ranges. In the old days he rode stagecoach through Wyoming and slept out on the plains in Texas, where he picked out cattle to feed and fatten for market. From 1904 to 1907 he showed cattle at the exposition in Chicago, and in 1906 he took first place in the Southwest



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH TOWNSLEY TUCKER

District for two-year-old Herefords and second place for shorthorns. From 1905 to 1939 Mr. Tucker bought cattle and hogs in the Macon County area and shipped them by rail to Chicago or Indianapolis.

On October 12, 1898, at Warrensburg, Mr. Tucker married Bessie I. Batchelder, daughter of John Jenness and Mary (Thorndike) Batchelder. It was John J. Batchelder who gave the land on which the Illini Congregational Church, where Mr. Tucker has been an officer for years, now stands. Mr. Tucker's 640 acres include 320 which were the home place of Mr. Batchelder. Mrs. Tucker, a graduate of Knox College, is a talented artist. She is a charter member of Concordia Women's Club, past matron of the Warrensburg Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, and active in church and missionary work. Mr. and Mrs. Tucker have three daughters—Ruth Emma, born February 17, 1901, holder of the degrees of A.B., M.A., and Ph.D., former professor of home economics at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Mary Elizabeth, born May 25, 1904, holder of the A.B. and M.A. degrees, now the wife of Russell M. DeCoursey and mother of Lowell Arthur and Marilyn Jean DeCoursey; and Helen, born December 28, 1906, holder of the A.B. degree, now Mrs. Harry M. Osborn and mother of Elizabeth Ann Osborn.

Mr. Tucker is past grand of Dove Lodge, No. 600, I.O.O.F.; past master, Warrensburg Lodge, No. 959, A. F. and A. M.; a member of Decatur Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar, and Ansar Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. Also, he is past patron Warrensburg Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. He has been a delegate to Democratic Party conventions, as was his father, and has served as Town Clerk and Road Commissioner. Geography and poetry are his hobbies, and travel is his favorite recreation. He has visited every state in the United States and Canada and Mexico. He is described as a "jovial man, friendly, liking to meet people. He can meet people and get acquainted easily." His activities, it is agreed throughout the county, have promoted prosperity and welfare.

IRVING MUNSON, M.A.

One of Illinois' best known and most able educators, Irving Munson is now superintendent of schools at Kankakee, behind him a series of similar positions in various other communities of his native state. Aside from the reputation he has made as teacher and

administrator, Mr. Munson is known for his writings on educational subjects. He is prominent in Kankakee's civic life, as he has been in the civic life of the other communities in which he made his contribution to the development of education and the school systems.

Mr. Munson was born on a farm near New Bedford, in the western part of the state, on June 24, 1888. His parents were Swan Munson, a native of Sweden, who came to the United States in his youth and became a prominent and successful farmer tilling a large acreage, and Christine Marie (Johnson) Munson, also a native of Sweden, who came to the United States in girlhood, living at first in Indiana, finally in Illinois. The educator is the fourth of the five children born to this couple. The others were Frank, Annette, Lennie and Carl.

Irving Munson began his education in a rural grade school located at some distance from his native farm. He obtained the equivalent of a high school education at Augustana Academy, Rock Island, from which he was graduated in 1909. Four years later he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts at Augustana College in Rock Island, and immediately began his professional career. Years later he undertook graduate work in education at the University of Illinois, and in 1929 was granted his degree of Master of Arts. After obtaining his baccalaureate degree in 1913, he became a member of the faculty of the high school at Canton, Illinois. There he remained one year, resigning to accept the dual post of teacher and principal in the Spring Valley school system, where he worked from 1914 to 1916. In 1916, he assumed the office of superintendent of schools at Neponset, in Bureau County, but in 1917 returned to Spring Valley as superintendent. There he remained until 1920, when he accepted the superintendency of schools at Momence, in Kankakee County. This office he resigned when in 1934 he was offered the post of superintendent of the Kankakee city school system. This system has grown in size of registration and school structures, in personnel and in teaching and teacher standards under his administration, and as a result Mr. Munson has become a leading figure in Illinois' educational circles.

On June 5, 1917, at Princeton, Mr. Munson married Alma C. Nelson, a native of Spring Valley. One son was born to the marriage—Irving N. Munson, in 1919. The son, now practicing his profession of civil engineer in

Toledo, Ohio, obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He married Anne Elizabeth Holmes of that college city.

Superintendent Munson is a member of the National Education Association, the Illinois Education Association, the American Association of School Administrators, the Illinois Association of School Administrators and other professional groups. He is a former president of the East Central Division of the Illinois Education Association. He has also headed Mcommerce Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Kankakee and the Kankakee County Chapter of the American Red Cross. In addition, he belongs to Phi Delta Kappa, the educational fraternity, and to the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic Order, the Order of the Eastern Star, and the Methodist Church. He is one of the popular figures in Kankakee County and in the educational world, and a writer on professional subjects who is closely studied by his colleagues.

CHARLES UNDERFANGER

A business which is today one of the leading firms in the transfer and storage field in Illinois—the Underfanger Transfer and Storage Company of Springfield—began in the middle nineteenth century with a horse and wagon that pulled loads at twenty-five cents a load. It is also a business which probably held the first contract in the nation to haul dynamite, which at that time was considered an even more hazardous operation than it is today. The man who took this business over from his father and built it into the great enterprise it is today and then, on retirement, turned it over to his son-in-law, Edward F. Wagner, is—Charles Underfanger. Mr. Underfanger in his many years in the storage and transfer field became one of its leading figures and is even now consulted repeatedly for advice in this field.

Mr. Underfanger was born in Edinburgh, Christian County, on January 22, 1878, the son of John and Emily (Taintor) Underfanger. His father, famed Civil War veteran and Grand Army of the Republic official, was born in Belleville, St. Clair County, in 1847 and died in 1930. The mother, a native of Springfield, was honored by the Woman's Relief Corps of the Grand Army of the Republic for seventeen consecutive years of service as treasurer by the planting of a tree on the court house lawn in her memory. At the age of fourteen, John Underfanger,

with one horse and wagon, started business hauling vegetables and bananas, and also furniture, at twenty-five cents a load. When he was a bit older he ran away from home to join the Union Army. The family traced him and took him home, but when bounties were offered for active soldiers his family allowed him to rejoin the Union forces. He was in the Battle of Shiloh at the age of fifteen. Later he was chief mustering officer and vice commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. He also had many skirmishes with the Indians to his credit. At the time of Abraham Lincoln's death he was chosen to stand as guard as the body lay in state at the capitol and during the burial service. He was again chosen when the Great Emancipator's body was moved to its present resting place. He was a member of the Battle of Shiloh Survivors and prominent in the Illinois Department of the G. A. R. After the war John Underfanger began expanding his business, adding horses and wagons as necessary. The contract he obtained from the duPont company to haul dynamite and other explosives is still carried by the firm now operated by his son's son-in-law. He built the firm's first warehouse, on the site it still occupies in Springfield, in the late part of the century. It was a horse barn remodeled for storage.

Charles Underfanegr joined his father in the business at an early age. The father gave him and his brother John a horse and wagon and from this beginning the brothers started a business of their own which they later amalgamated with their father's and which is today the great Underfanger Transfer and Storage Company. The Underfangers bought their first truck in 1916. In 1926, on his own in business, Charles Underfanger purchased his father's warehouse. He had purchased the original business in 1914. In 1927 he built a second warehouse, located at the rear of the block containing the original warehouse. The firm now operates six large vans and several small pickup and delivery service trucks and employs twelve persons. It does interstate hauling.

Charles Underfanger married Pearl Walcher on November 6, 1901, and to this marriage Elizabeth Underfanger was born on August 31, 1902. Educated in Springfield's grade and high schools and in Brown's Business College, the daughter became bookkeeper in the Underfanger business. She is still active in it today. Her husband, born in Girard, Illinois, on January 26, 1896, has been associated with the business since 1923. In 1937,



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES UNDERFANGER

after the retirement of her father, Mr. Wagner took over the sales end of the business and since 1946 he has been general manager. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner have two children—Margaret E., born on August 7, 1932, and Charles E., born on October 18, 1933.

Always active in community life, Charles Underfanger has continued so despite his retirement. He is a member of the Springfield Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; the Springfield Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and the Methodist Church. He is regarded as one of those who have made the greatest contributions to the development and prosperity of the state capital.

HAROLD HENRY MYERS

A leading business man of the state, Harold Henry Myers of Decatur is president and treasurer of the Swain and Myers, Inc., of Decatur, president and treasurer of the Lincoln Store Fixture Company of Lincoln and President of the Store Equipment Acceptance Company of Chicago, of all of which concerns he was co-founder or founder. Active outside the business world in civic and religious affairs, Mr. Myers is a lay leader in the Methodist Church and the Epworth Assembly at Ludington, Michigan.

He was born in Forreston, Ogle County, on August 14, 1900, the son of Charles M. and Nellie B. (Roach) Myers. His father, who was born in 1870 at Mount Morris, Ogle County, was a railroader and farmer who achieved such prominence and leadership as to be elected Sheriff and Treasurer of Ogle County. Nellie Roach Myers was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Roach of Ogle County.

Harold Henry Myers, after attending the elementary and high schools of his native county, also studied at Northwestern University, Evanston, and the University of Illinois. In 1918, the final year of World War I, he was a member of the Student Army Training Corps at Northwestern. He was a student at Urbana in 1919, 1920 and 1921. He was elected to Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. In 1922, Mr. Myers became a salesman for the Liquid Carbonic Company at Chicago. This position he held until 1923, when he became sales manager for the Combination Fountain Company in Decatur. Four years later he left this firm to become co-founder of Swain and Myers, Inc., Decatur, of which he has been president and treasurer since 1935. In 1946, Mr. Myers founded the Lincoln Store Fixture Company at Lincoln, and

has been that concern's president and treasurer since that year. In 1947 he founded the Store Equipment Acceptance Company at Chicago, of which he has been president from the beginning also.

On September 29, 1923, at Tuscola, seat of Douglas County, Mr. Myers married Constance Fuller, the daughter of Dr. George H. and Beatrice (Howard) Fuller. Mrs. Myers, well known in health and welfare work, is a member of the board of trustees of the Girls' Welfare Home of Decatur; she was president of this board in 1947-48 and 1948-49. One daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Myers on May 26, 1927—Marilyn, now Mrs. Robert E. McCann. Mr. and Mrs. Myers reside at 681 South Monroe Street, Decatur, and worship at the First Methodist Church in that city. Mr. Myers has been on the church's official board for many years. He is also vice-president and a member of the official board of the Epworth Assembly at Ludington, Michigan.

Mr. Myers' other interests include the Decatur Club and the Decatur Country Club, the Republican Party and saddle and show horses. He is six feet tall, weighs 195 pounds, has blue eyes and a medium complexion. He is described as "very kind, dependable and considerate."

KIZER OIL COMPANY

The Kizer Oil Company of Mattoon, owned and controlled by the Kizer family, was founded in 1919 by John Worth Kizer, a native of Christian County. This highly successful firm, distributing petroleum products since that year, has expanded its operations year by year until it now operates filling stations and distributes its merchandise in seven Illinois counties. Its trading radius is about sixty miles of Mattoon. The company handles gasoline, fuel oil and lubricating oil. Its main plant is at 2216 West Broadway, Mattoon, with bulk plants also at Mattoon, Charleston and in Greenup, Cumberland County. It owns nine filling stations.

John Worth Kizer, the founder, turned the business over to his two sons, Clarence W. Kizer and Paul A. Kizer, in 1939, and they have operated and further extended the business since that time, adding to the reputation of the Kizer family. The sons' mother was Ersie Elizabeth Kizer, who died on April 1, 1946. Clarence Kizer was born on March 9, 1901, and Paul Kizer on January 21, 1911. Clarence Kizer married Margaret Boyd of Paris, Illinois. Paul Kizer, on June 18, 1944,

married Edna Mae Cole of Mattoon. They have one son, George Worth Kizer, who was born on February 24, 1945. Mrs. Paul Kizer, who was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1932, was principal of the Longfellow School in Mattoon until her marriage. She is a member of the University of Illinois chapter of Sigma Kappa Sorority and in 1949-1950 was president of the Mattoon and Charleston Branch of the American Association of University Women. Mr. Paul Kizer is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Mattoon Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member and a trustee of the Central Community Church of Mattoon.

The Kizers are recognized as having made an outstanding contribution to not only the petroleum industry but also to the economic and cultural development of a large section of Illinois. John Worth Kizer and his sons are held in the highest respect in their area of the state, where they have exercised leadership for so long.

HONORABLE FRED MONROE JONES

Two fields of endeavor claim the Honorable Fred Monroe Jones as an outstanding citizen-hotel keeping and public affairs. In the former Mr. Jones is owner and operator of the famed Douglas Hotel at Tuscola, seat of Douglas County, and in the latter he is Mayor of Tuscola. A popular figure among his fellow citizens in the community and county and among the traveling public visiting Central Illinois, Mayor Jones carries on a tradition of service established for his family by his late father.

Born in Thompsonville, Illinois, on January 20, 1903, Fred Monroe Jones is the son of Walter and Litha (White) Jones. His father, who was also a renowned hotelman, operated hotels in Marion, Johnston City, Carbondale, Mattoon and Thompsonville. He died on December 22, 1942. The mother, who was a native of Thompsonville, died in 1939.

Tuscola's Mayor began his education in the elementary schools of Marion. He then went to the Johnston City High School, where he played basketball and football. Following his graduation from the high school, he studied in the University of Illinois School of Commerce. He left college to help manage his father's hotel and has since been identified with the hotel industry in Illinois. He is now the owner and manager of the Douglas Hotel in Tuscola—a hostelry which has fifty rooms and is exceedingly popular among traveling salesmen and other touring Americans who

enter the Central Illinois region. Wherever the fame of the Douglas Hotel has spread, and it has gone far, there the name of Fred Monroe Jones has become known.

On May 25, 1936, Mr. Jones married Helen V. Eversole of Hindsboro, Douglas County, and a graduate of the Illinois State Normal School. Mrs. Jones, who taught in the public schools of Illinois for twenty-five years, is now active in assisting her husband in the management of the Hotel Douglas. Mr. and Mrs. Jones maintain an apartment of their own in the hotel.

Active in Tuscola's public affairs for years, Mr. Jones was elected Mayor in April, 1949, and has since given the city an outstanding administration. The city, seat of a county established in February, 1860, has the old town form of government now headed by Mayor Jones and is a member of the Illinois Municipal League. Its population is nearly 3,000. Mayor Jones is a Republican. He spends his leisure in the country, at a cabin he calls "The Oaks." His organizational affiliations are with the Decatur Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Tuscola Moose Club and the Tuscola Chamber of Commerce.

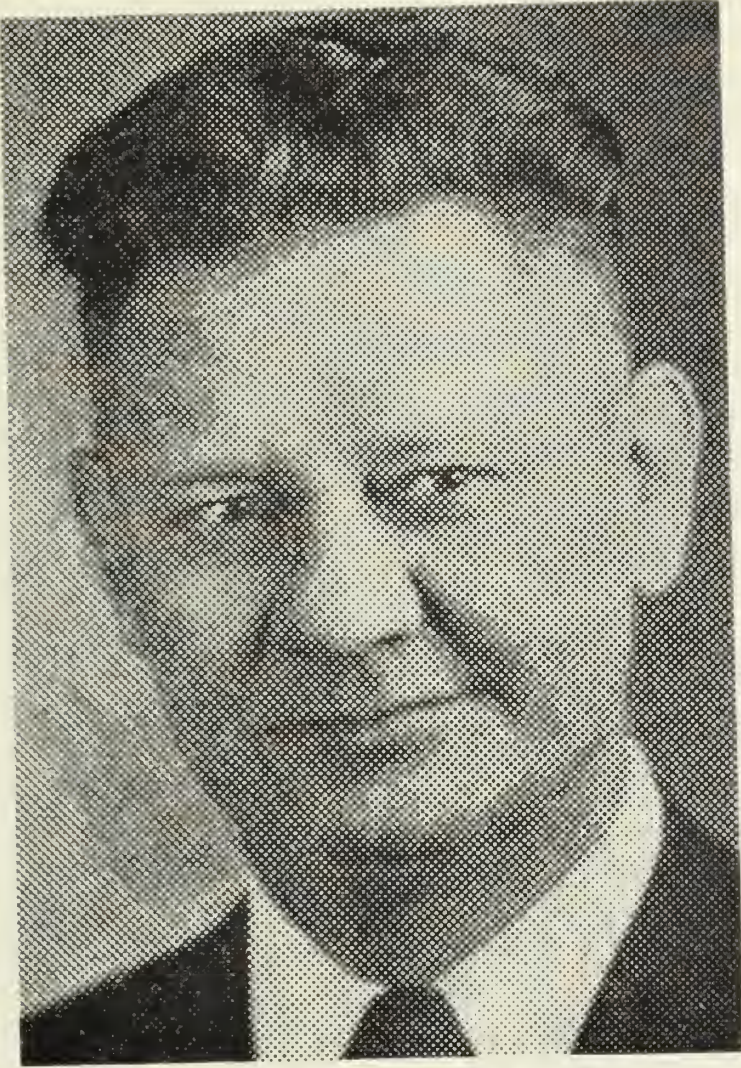
As Mayor and hotel operator Fred Monroe Jones is stimulating the growth of not only his community but the surrounding region.

FREDERICK A. JORGENSEN

Though he is now retired, Frederick A. Jorgensen of Champaign has the pleasure of knowing that his name is still renowned in the creamery world, to which he gave years of leadership. Once the owner of creameries in Peoria and Champaign, he was for seventeen years vice-president of the Beatrice Creamery of Champaign, one of the largest in its field in the United States. He now keeps his hand in the field, so to speak, by operating a large dairy farm in DuPage County. He has served the University of Illinois and the State of Illinois in official dairy capacities and twice attended International Dairy Congresses, once as an official delegate from the State.

Mr. Jorgensen comes from a country of dairy experts—Denmark. He was born in Hals, in that country, on December 21, 1882, one of the fourteen children of I. M. S. and Jensine (Als) Jorgensen. His father, a farmer, died in 1927 and his mother in 1915. Both were also natives of Hals and both are interred there.

Frederick Jorgensen received his early edu-



HONORABLE FRED MONROE JONES

cation in the public schools of Hals. He left school to work on his father's farm. When he was eighteen he emigrated to America, arriving on May 11, 1901. For a time he was a farm hand at Lombard, Illinois, but in 1903 he moved to Champaign and became a special student in agriculture, having been awarded a scholarship. On February 1, 1904, he was appointed a butter maker at the university and later he was associated with the dairy department as creamery field assistant and he traveled throughout Illinois. In 1912 Mr. Jorgensen established what is now called the Peoria Creamery Company, at Peoria. Then he returned to Champaign and took over what is known as the Twin City Creamery as owner. In 1927 the Twin City was consolidated with the Beatrice Creamery, having previously (1915) having also been consolidated with the Pioneer Creamery. In 1927 Mr. Jorgensen became vice-president of the enlarged Beatrice Creamery and remained in that capacity until his retirement in 1944. He had, in meantime, made an extraordinary contribution to the growth of that great firm.

On September 3, 1913, Mr. Jorgensen married Sarah Grace McMillin of McComb, Illinois, a graduate of the University of Illinois, and they reside at 507 Highland Street, Champaign. Both worship at the Christian Church of that city.

Mr. Jorgensen's notable services were performed not only in the dairy industry but in the community. He was, for example, president of the Champaign Chamber of Commerce in 1935. He is also active in the Rotary Club of Champaign and in the Masonic order, and he continues making his contribution as the operator of a dairy farm of great dimensions. He was a delegate from the State of Illinois to the International Dairy Congress at Stockholm, Sweden, in 1911, and attended the International Dairy Congress at London, England, in 1928. Gardening is his hobby and in politics he is a staunch Republican.

Mr. Jorgensen has won the respect and affection of thousands of citizens.

WILLIAM CLYDE HANDLIN, M.A.

An educator whose reputation has spread throughout Illinois and even beyond, William Clyde Handlin has been promoting the cause of education—with excellent results—throughout Central Illinois for many years. He is not only principal of the Lincoln High School in Lincoln but a leading organizational and civ-

ic worker and a former head of the state's professional group in the field of education.

Mr. Handlin was born at Lake Fork, Illinois, On April 11, 1885, the son of Daniel D. and Margaret Lucinda (Buckles) Handlin. He went to elementary and high school at Mt. PULASKI and in 1909 was graduated from the University of Illinois with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Mr. Handlin began his pedagogical career that year, but continued with his studies. In 1926 he did some post-graduate work in education at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and this he followed up with further graduate work at Millikin University in Decatur, receiving the degree of Master of Arts in 1928.

Mr. Handlin's first position as educator was in a rural school. He was a teacher there from 1909 to 1911. Then, from 1911 to 1913, he taught in the New Holland village school. In 1913 he went to Lincoln as instructor and athletic coach at the Lincoln High School. In 1916 he was appointed coach at Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon. In 1919 he was appointed to his present post of principal of the high school. His administration of the high school has brought him considerable attention from educators and parents throughout the state.

Mr. Handlin married Marian Louise Newlan on June 20, 1923, and three children have been born to them: Daniel W. Handlin, Marian Lucinda Handlin and Sylvia Louise Handlin. The family worships in the Christian Church at Lincoln.

Mr. Handlin had a two-fold experience in World War I. A secretary aboard the U. S. S. President Grant, a troopship, he made four round-trips on the Atlantic between the American coast and France. Also, from October to December, 1918, he served as a Corporal in the Reserve Officers Training Corps at Columbia University, New York, where he also did some graduate study in education. From 1941 to 1943 he was chairman of the Legislative Committee in the Illinois Education Association and from 1943 to 1944 he was president of that organization, in which he remains an influential figure. He also belongs to the National Education Association and to the Lincoln Post of the American Legion, the Kiwanis Club of Lincoln and to the Masonic order, in which he holds the thirty-second degree, being a Noble of Ansar Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Springfield. In politics he is a Republican. His services to the cause of education and good citizenship have won Mr. Handlin widespread recognition.

LT. COL. STANLEY LOUIS KAUFMAN

Kaufman's, Inc., in Champaign, is not only a place to shop drawing customers from territory many miles from that city but it is a place in which numerous business men, while students at the University of Illinois nearby, had their early training in the arts of merchandising under experts. It is an institution—an institution which has served the city and the surrounding area since 1879. Today this famous establishment is headed by Stanley Louis Kaufman, son and nephew of the founders. A veteran of both World Wars I and II, Mr. Kaufman is not only an outstanding business man of the State, but one who is prominent in agriculture, county fair promotion, civic work and religious activities.

Col. Kaufman was born in Champaign, the son of Jacob M. and Hattie (Freudenstein) Kaufman. The families on both sides are of German-Jewish extraction, having come to this country between 1849 and 1870. The Kaufman family settled in Indiana, but moved from place to place before finally establishing itself in Champaign. Jacob Kaufman was born at Windfall, Tipton County, Indiana. On July 19, 1866, he and his brother Aaron established the Kaufman store at its present location, 16-18 Main Street, Champaign. The brother moved to Decatur in 1882 where he founded the Kaufman Store, but this was sold a few years before his death to Sessels. This store is still in existence at Decatur. Jacob Kaufman became one of Champaign's foremost citizens. He served as president of the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and the United Charities and was outstanding in many other organizations. He was introduced to the young woman who later became his wife by the late General Milton J. Foreman of Chicago, of World War I fame and an early president of the American Legion, who was best man at their wedding. Hattie Freudenstein Kaufman was the daughter of Louis and Hannah Freudenstein of Clinton, Illinois. Her father served in the Civil War. He founded the Freudenstein Clothing Store in 1862 on the Square in Clinton. This store was sold to Myers Brothers in 1917, but the building is still owned by Mrs. Kaufman. The Freudensteins acquired their land in Dewitt County in an interesting fashion. As their business prospered they felt it wise to invest in rich farmland. One of their farms was purchased from the Illinois Central Railroad. This land had been part of a grant issued by the Government when the railroad built its old main line

from Chicago to St. Louis. The farms were managed by Mrs. Kaufman's brother, the late Edwin L. Freudenstein, a prominent citizen and world traveler. They were inherited by Mrs. Kaufman, and her son, Stanley, manages them for her today.

Stanley Louis Kaufman was graduated from the Champaign High School in 1918. In World War I he served as a private in the Army. From 1919 to 1921 he was a student at Williams College in Massachusetts and in 1922 he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the University of Illinois. He succeeded his father as president of Kaufman's in 1922, and he has managed that store, with increasing success, ever since as well as the 1500 acres of family farmland in Champaign and Dewitt Counties. He is also president of the Hart Mirror Plate Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan. In World War II, Mr. Kaufman was commissioned a Captain in July, 1942, rising to a Major in June, 1943. He was a staff officer, director of the personnel division, at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and in June, 1945, received a letter of commendation from the commanding general of the Sixth Service Command for meritorious work in this capacity. At that time he became a Lieutenant Colonel. In August, 1945, Mr. Kaufman was separated from the service.

On February 2, 1925, Mr. Kaufman married Josephine Hart, daughter of Joseph and Rose S. Hart of Grand Rapids. It was Mrs. Kaufman's father who founded the Hart Mirror Plate Company in 1899, prior to which time he was a salesman on the road for many years for an Eastern mirror firm. His family had moved to Michigan around 1870. He was the first in the Middle West to establish a mirror plant, and set out primarily to serve the Grand Rapids furniture industry, and today nearly all the mirrors used in that industry are Hart mirrors. Mr. Hart died in 1916 and the business passed to his widow, Rose S. Hart. She died in 1945, and since then Mrs. Stanley Kaufman has been the owner. She is also vice-president of the company, and Mr. Kaufman, as its president, spends much of his time in Grand Rapids. Mrs. Kaufman is a charter member and former president of the Service League of Champaign and in 1944 was president of the Officers' Wives Club of Camp McCoy. She and Mr. Kaufman have a daughter, Joan Hart Kaufman, who was born on May 17, 1927. Their home is at 1015 West University Avenue, Champaign.

The family worships at Sinai Temple, Champaign. Mr. Kaufman is a member of its



LT. COL. STANLEY LOUIS KAUFMAN

board of directors. His father was one of the Temple's founders, and was president when it was built in 1918. One of the activities have been admired through the years was conducted in conjunction with Dean Charles M. Thompson of the University of Illinois College of Commerce, now retired, until World War II made its continuance impossible. This was helping graduates obtain good positions. Some of them were given part-time work in Kaufman's in their undergraduate days. All the records of the store have been given to the College of Commerce, and, dating from 1879, they have proved of tremendous value to those studying merchandising. Mr. Kaufman is a member of various Masonic bodies including the Shrine, the Elks, the Champaign Country Club, the Standard Club for which the Kaufmans, father and son, of Chicago and the Peninsular Club of Grand Rapids. Farming and saddle horses are his hobbies. Like all the members of his family he is maintaining a tradition of service to the State.

JESSE WILLIAM THRASHER

To the banking business at Champaign, where he is an outstanding figure in both commercial and community activities, Jesse William Thrasher has brought an unusual breadth of experience and a sincere interest in community and regional growth and welfare. He is not only executive vice-president of the Trevett-Mattis Banking Company but also the representative in the Champaign area of out-of-town residents owning and operating farm acreage there. He is active in civic and public affairs and is a veteran of World War I.

Jesse William Thrasher was born on November 14, 1898, at Thawville, Illinois, the son of Chauncey A. and Phoebe M. (Townsend) Thrasher. His father, also a native of Thawville, was a banker. His mother was the daughter of Frederick and Margaret Townsend of Thawville.

Jesse W. Thrasher was graduated from the Gibson High School at Gibson, Illinois. He was on the school's football and basketball teams. In 1917 he entered the banking business as an employee of the Skeels and Thrasher Bank at Thawville. Soon afterward the United States became a belligerent in World War I, and Mr. Thrasher took a military leave of absence to serve his country. He was with the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, serving in France.

Honorably discharged from the Army in 1919, Mr. Thrasher returned to his position with the Skeels and Thrasher Bank. In 1922, that institution became a State bank and assumed the name of Thawville State Bank. Mr. Thrasher remained with the bank until 1927, when he resigned to enter the insurance business in Champaign. After three years in that field, he accepted a post in the farm loan department of the Trevett-Mattis Banking Company. He continued in that department until 1936, and then was advanced to the office of cashier, which he held for twelve years or until 1948. In that year he was elected executive vice-president, the post he holds today. As a banker, Mr. Thrasher has done much to promote the growth of Champaign and the surrounding farm region.

His civic activities have been extensive, and he has been named to serve on the Champaign Police and Fire Commission and to the board of directors of the Champaign Civic Foundation. He is a member of the American Legion at Champaign, the Champaign Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Champaign Country Club. He worships in the Presbyterian Church and is a Republican. His home is at 308 North Prairie Avenue, Champaign.

In 1919, at Gibson City, Mr. Thrasher married Mildred Lowry. In 1943, he remarried, his present wife being the former Marjorie Cekander of Champaign. Mr. Thrasher is the father of two daughters and two sons—Patricia, the wife of J. Gould and the mother of Terry and Judy Gould; Shirlee, the wife of Stanley C. Green and the mother of Robin Green and Scott Green; Robert F. Thrasher, who married Mary Jordan, and Jeffrey Alan Thrasher.

Banking is one of the major factors promoting the development of urban-rural territory and accelerating the march of civilization. Its leaders are possessors of great public trust. A man who has proved himself capable of discharging this trust with wisdom is—Jesse William Thrasher.

ORVALL ORAN MITCHELL

At Kansas, in Edgar County, Eastern Illinois has an outstanding teacher in vocational agriculture and a farmer and Duroc Hog breeder with a state-wide reputation. He is Orvall Oran Mitchell, a native of the region in which he has achieved renown.

Mr. Mitchell was born on a small farm near Newton, seat of Jasper County, on March 12, 1897. His father was James Albert Mitchell, a

prosperous farmer also born in Jasper County, the youngest son in a family of two boys and seven girls. The mother of Orvall O. Mitchell was Clara Florence (Eck) Mitchell, one of the thirteen children of George and Mary Eck. Her father, who came to the United States from Germany, served three years in the Civil War. Orvall Mitchell was graduated from the Newton High School in 1918. Six years later he received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Illinois and in 1938 took the degree of Master of Science. He was elected to Alpha Tau Alpha, the professional agricultural education fraternity.

In 1924, after taking his bachelor's degree, Mr. Mitchell began teaching vocational agriculture in the high school at Sandoval, Marion County. He remained there until August, 1925, when he moved to Westfield, in Coles County. He taught vocational agriculture at Westfield for eighteen years. In August, 1943, Mr. Mitchell established himself at Kansas, and in 1950 was in his seventh year as teacher of vocational agriculture in the community high school. For twenty years Mr. Mitchell has farmed as a sideline and the breeding of purebred Duroc hogs has been his specialty.

On October 9, 1924, at West Liberty, Mr. Mitchell married Sadie Elizabeth Semple, who was a teacher in the Newton public schools before her marriage and who is now active in the Order of the Eastern Star and the Women's Federated Club at Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell are the parents of four children—Ronald Gene Mitchell; Betty Marie Mitchell; James Oran Mitchell, and Jeanette, now Mrs. Ervin L. Duzan.

Mr. Mitchell's reputation in the livestock world is such as to have won him election to the office of secretary-treasurer of the Illinois Duroc Breeders Association. This office he held from 1944 to 1947, inclusive. In civic affairs he is equally prominent. He was president of the Lions Club of Westfield for two years and of the Lions Club of Kansas for two years. He was a member of the Westfield Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, from 1926 to 1943 and is at present a member of the Kansas Lodge. He has been through all the chairs. He is a member of the board of directors and otherwise active in the Methodist Church at Kansas. In World War I Mr. Mitchell served in the United States Army. He is five feet seven inches tall, has brown hair and blue eyes and weighs 165 pounds. He is described as quick-tempered, with a dry wit, "always ready with an answer." He likes fish-

ing, hunting and travel and is a Republican. He is recognized as having made a great contribution to agriculture both as teacher and practical man.

CAPTAIN EDWARD BAILEY

At the time of the death of Captain Edward Bailey of Champaign a newspaper wrote of him, "His death removes from the community one of its oldest and best known residents and a business man and banker of statewide repute. Prominent in civic and community activities he was a servant of the people both in his business and spare time . . . He was one of the senior bank presidents of Illinois." A founder of the Champaign National Bank, Captain Bailey headed that institution for forty-three years, and only death took him from its leadership. A veteran of the Civil War, Captain Bailey was active in the work of the Grand Army of the Republic and other veterans' affairs and in every phase of community life.

Captain Edward Bailey was born at Bloomfield, in Edgar County, on September 8, 1843, the oldest child of David Bailey and Hannah Anne (Finley) Bailey. His father was a native of New Hampshire who came west when travel was by canal boat and stage coach. He settled in Illinois and took up large tracts of land, in Douglas, Piatt and Champaign Counties. He was also interested in cattle raising and was a merchant and banker. The Baileys lived at Bloomfield for twelve years, and then moved to Monticello. After a few months at that place, they moved to Urbana in 1855 and in the Spring of 1856 moved to Champaign. Captain Bailey was then twelve years old. He attended the local district schools for a time and was then enrolled in Atkinson Academy at Atkinson, New Hampshire, where he was a student for eighteen months. In the Fall of 1860 he entered Douglas University at Chicago. In the Spring of 1863 he attended business college in Chicago. At intervening times he worked on his father's farm.

Captain Bailey served two enlistments in the Union Army. He first enlisted in Company K, 67th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was elected first lieutenant by acclamation and was commissioned to that rank by Governor Richard Yates. He was sent with his company to Camp Douglas and served under Colonel R. M. Huff. Operations of the regiment were near Vicksburg, Mississippi. After eighteen months of service with



CAPTAIN EDWARD BAILEY



FRED S. BAILEY

Company K, the lieutenant was discharged at Chicago. Later he enlisted with Company B, 135th Illinois Volunteer Infantry and was commissioned a captain. He served in this capacity for six months, the length of his enlistment. His company was the guard of honor for the body of Lincoln's famed debating opponent, Stephen A. Douglas.

On March 17, 1868, Captain Bailey married Josephine Susan Richards, in Champaign. She had come westward from Maine three years earlier. Three children were born to the union—a son, Fred S. Bailey, now president of the Champaign National Bank, and two daughters, Belle J. and Agnes Bailey.

After the marriage Captain Bailey and his bride lived on a farm. Later, Captain Bailey was a silent partner in the Richards Brothers banking business, an interest he eventually sold. In the Fall of 1879, he, W. S. Maxwell and James C. Miller organized a private banking company, known as Bailey, Maxwell and Miller Company. In 1882 this firm became the Champaign National Bank, with Captain Bailey as president. This was the post he occupied when, on October 5, 1925, at the age of eighty-two, he died in his home at 606 West Church Street, Champaign.

Captain Bailey was a member of the G. A. R. Post in Champaign; of the Loyal Legion; the Masonic order, in which he held the thirty-second degree, and the Champaign Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. During the Civil War he was a member of the Union League. He was a Republican in politics and it has been said that he was a man who stood by his convictions, and had the courage to stand by his views, whether they were popular at the time or not. He is remembered in Champaign as one who did much for the community, and the great banking institution he helped found—one of the outstanding contributors to the prosperity and welfare of that community—will always stand a monument to his memory.

FRED S. BAILEY

One of the old families of Illinois is the Bailey family, which has made an extraordinary contribution to the progress and growth of the region of which the Urbana-Champaign district is the heart. A member of this family who has done his share to substantiate the family's claim of outstanding service to the State is Fred S. Bailey of Champaign, the president of the Champaign National Bank and a man who in his long lifetime has served

his community not only as banker but also as a civic worker.

The son of Captain Edward Bailey, one of the founders of the Champaign National Bank, Fred S. Bailey was born in Champaign on April 19, 1871. He began his education in Champaign's elementary schools and went on to high school, graduating from the latter in 1889. He then continued his studies at the University of Illinois until failing health obliged him to leave school and the State.

For a year he worked in Colorado for an uncle. When his health returned, he went back to Champaign and entered the employ of the Champaign National Bank as a clerk. Step by step he rose through all the grades of service in that institution until he became president, and that office he has held for many years.

On August 12, 1901, Mr. Bailey married Mabel Bennett, a native of Pontiac, Illinois. Mrs. Bailey and her parents had moved to Champaign in 1892. There her father became agent for the Illinois Central Railway. Afterwards, however, he entered the land business in Mississippi, maintaining his residence in Champaign. Mrs. Bailey and both her parents are now deceased.

Mr. Bailey, whose bank is at 13 Main Street, Champaign, has long been an active figure in the community's public life. He is a charter member of the Champaign Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and in politics is a Republican.

Member of a family with great traditions of public service he has upheld the traditions through his own activities and sincere interest in community betterment.

ACE C. PARRIS

Champaign's Postmaster—Ace C. Parris—is known throughout Illinois. He has made a reputation among executives in the United States Post Office Department for the work he has done in developing the mail service at Champaign and in the Champaign area he is known for his services to the community beyond his duties as Postmaster. He is a former newspaper editor and the operator of a large printing business.

Postmaster Parris was born in Rogers, Arkansas, on August 26, 1882, the son of Henry C. and Mary E. (Mapes) Parris. His father was also a native of Illinois, his mother of New York State. The elder Mr. Parris lived for many years in Arkansas, and it was during this period that his son was born. Later, however, he took his family to Illinois and set-

tled in Homer, another Champaign County community. There he followed his trade of carpenter and builder until his death in 1914.

After completing his education in Homer's public schools, Mr. Parris went to another part of the county, Ogden, and there began his career as a printer. After a time he moved to Champaign, and there too he followed the printing trade. For a time he was out of Champaign, at Ivesdale, where he worked as a country editor. Later he bought and operated a newspaper at Philo, also in Champaign County.

It was at Philo that Mr. Parris met the woman who later became his wife—Margaret E. Lowry, a native of Philo. They were married on October 1, 1906, and since the day of their marriage they have resided in Champaign. Their present home address is 106½ West Columbia Avenue. Mrs. Parris is, like her husband, active in affairs in Champaign, especially in the Catholic Church. She is a member of the Catholic Women's League.

Having moved to Champaign on the day of his marriage, Mr. Parris became associated with the Champaign News. Afterward, he went into the job printing business in that city, and eventually he became president of the Twin City Printing Company. Through the years he was working as a newspaperman and building and operating his printing business. Mr. Parris was also participating in all the major programs of the community, aiding every effort to advance its progress. His civic interest was recognized when, on the recommendation of Congressman D. C. Dobbins, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt appointed him to the office of Postmaster of Champaign. His appointment occurred on April 1, 1935, and he has held the office with distinction and success ever since.

Postmaster Parris is a member of the National Postmasters Association and is also a member of the Postal Clerks and City Letter Carriers Associations. In addition, he is active in the Champaign Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the Champaign Council, Knights of Columbus, and the Champaign Lodge, Loyal Order of Moose. He is a Democrat. Fishing is among his favorite sports, but another favorite is poker, for he enjoys a good game with his friends at the club.

The postmaster is a popular figure in Champaign.

CARREL WESLEY FLEWELLING, D.D.

Throughout the Christian Church in the United States, the name of the Reverend

Doctor Carrel Wesley Flewelling of Decatur has long stood for aggressive, enlightened spiritual leadership. Formerly minister of Christian Churches in Ohio and New York State, Dr. Flewelling has been minister of the Central Christian Church of Decatur since 1927. He has served church organizations in important official capacities and has also made himself an influential figure in civic affairs.

Dr. Flewelling was born in Eau Claire, Michigan, on September 22, 1887. His father, William Lawrence Flewelling, a farmer born near Dowagiac, Michigan, was the son of John Wesley Flewelling, a native of the Marion, Ohio, area, who at the age of four (in 1831), was taken to lower Michigan and thus became a pioneer there. Also born near Dowagiac was Dr. Flewelling's mother, Margaret Lucretia (Carrel) Flewelling. Her father, Thomas Carrel, also pioneered in Michigan, coming from Rutland, Vermont; her mother was a native of New York State. The future minister was graduated from Dowagiac High School in 1905. Four years later he took the degree of Bachelor of Science at Kalamazoo College and in the same year was awarded the same degree by the University of Chicago. In 1913, he was granted the Master of Arts degree at Hiram College. In 1947, James Millikin University, Decatur, bestowed upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, in recognition of a distinguished career in the service of God and man. At Kalamazoo Dr. Flewelling was a member of the Century Forum Literary Society, at Hiram of the Delphic Literary Society.

From 1909 to 1911 he taught sciences in the Ionia, Michigan, High School. Then, in the next fifteen years, he held the following ministerial posts in Christian Churches: Wiloughby, Ohio, 1911-1913; Ashtabula, Ohio, 1913-1917; Collinwood Christian Church, Cleveland, Ohio, 1917-1920; Wellsville, New York, 1920-1925. From September, 1925, to June, 1927, he was promotional secretary for the United Christian Missionary Society, the headquarters of which were then in St. Louis and are now in Indianapolis. In 1927 Dr. Flewelling was called to the pulpit of the Central Christian Church, Decatur, and here he has since remained. In the course of the years, under his leadership, the church membership grew rapidly; by 1950, the rolls had swelled from about 1,000 to 1,600, and in that year the congregation was preparing to build a \$400,000 edifice.

In the year Dr. Flewelling was completing

his first biennium as a minister—on June 21, 1913—he married, at Kalamazoo, Winifred Hutchins, the daughter of Thomas and Lydia (Palferman) Hutchins, who after their marriage came to America from England. Mrs. Flewelling, a talented pianist, is a graduate of Kalamazoo High School and a former student of Western State Normal, Kalamazoo, and Detroit Conservatory of Music. The Flewellings have two children—Philip Hutchins Flewelling, who married Pauline Odle of Hoopeston, Illinois, and is the father of Margaret Anne and William Carrel Flewelling; and Margaret Elaine Flewelling. The family home is at 316 South Westlawn Avenue, Decatur.

Dr. Flewelling, for nine years a member of the United Christian Missionary Society board of trustees, has been on the board of the Illinois Christian Missionary Society since 1928 and of the Decatur Young Men's Christian Association since 1931. He is also on the Commission of Budgets and Promotional Relationships of the Brotherhood of the Disciples of Christ. He has served as president of the Decatur Kiwanis Club and Lieutenant Governor of Kiawanis International, and has been president and director of the Social Welfare Board of Decatur. He is active in various Masonic bodies, in the Decatur Club and other organizations. He has become a beloved figure in the church and community.

HON. RICHARD EARL ELLISON

Even as far back as his high school days Richard Earl Ellison of Decatur demonstrated powers of leadership. Through the years he was in the merchandising and manufacturing fields, he continued the demonstration. Today, he is giving leadership to the City of Decatur in many ways, chiefly as Postmaster. This leadership extends to civic activities of every type and even to the "Booster Day" drive on behalf of baseball for the community. He is an outstanding layman in the Catholic Church. A veteran of World War II, he is also active in veterans' and military affairs and is an officer in the United States Navy Reserve.

Mr. Ellison was born at Kenosha, Wisconsin, on February 9, 1918. His father, Edward Ellison, born in Streator, Illinois, in 1886, now resides in Kenosha. The mother is Anna (Krebs) Ellison, daughter of Anthony and Mary Krebs of Kenosha. The future Postmaster of Decatur began his education in St. Elizabeth's Parochial School, Milwaukee, transferring to St. James Parochial School,

Kenosha. In 1935, he was graduated from the Mary D. Bradford High School, Kenosha, and then spent four years at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he majored in industrial relations and where, in 1942, he took the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. He took work toward a Master's degree in 1945-46 at the University of Illinois. In his high school days, Postmaster Ellison was on the debating and oratorical teams, was a member of the National Forensic League, sports editor of the school paper and president of the Quill and Scroll Club. At college, he was on the varsity baseball team three years, after one year on the freshman team, and was pledged to Theta Delta Chi and Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternities. Between high school and college, Mr. Ellison held the responsible post of department manager for the J. C. Penney Company at Kenosha. This was 1936 to 1938. After obtaining his Bachelor's degree, he became associated with the A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company at Decatur and when he left about seven years later, in April, 1949, he was assistant to the personnel director. In those seven years, Mr. Ellison had become an outstanding citizen of Decatur and in recognition of his value to the community he was appointed to his present office as Postmaster on April 1, 1949.

Postmaster Ellison married Kathryn R. Seibert of Decatur, daughter of Mrs. Alma Prescott and the late Karl Seibert and granddaughter of the late James William Carter of Decatur, in the Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, on July 1, 1943. They have two children—Jacqueline Anne, born January 7, 1946, and Kathy Lee, born September 15, 1949. The family resides at 915 Moore Street and worship in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Decatur, where Mr. Ellison is a member of the Parish Club.

Mr. Ellison, probably the youngest man to hold Postmastership of a first class post office of the size of Decatur, is Macon County director of the Illinois Chapter, National Association of Postmasters. In 1948 and 1949, Mr. Ellison, himself a "southpaw" in very respect, was Booster Day chairman for Decatur Baseball. He is on the board of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and a member of the senior chamber, of the Rotary Club, the Fellows Club, and the Young Men's Christian Association. In World War II he was communication officer aboard the U. S. S. Guadalcanal, which participated in the capture of a Nazi submarine, the only enemy "man of war" captured on the high seas by the American Navy

since 1815. He is now a Lieutenant in the Reserve. Macon County counts him among its most valuable citizens.

HONORABLE WILLIAM A. STEIGER

With the Springfield Post Office since 1911, except for a short period when he was absent in Florida for his health, the Honorable William A. Steiger is now Springfield's Acting Postmaster. In this office he is extending the reputation he made through the years as he occupied one responsible position after another in the post office. He is one of Springfield's hardest-working citizens, and a contributor to civic progress.

Postmaster Steiger was born in New York City on September 1, 1891, the son of Charles F. and Christina E. Steiger, both of whom were born in Germany. The father, a meat shop proprietor, at one time had as many as twelve markets. His wife, who came to the United States as a young girl, met and was married to him in Springfield. The future acting postmaster of Springfield was educated in grade and high schools at Springfield, and in the Illinois Business College there. For seven years he also studied at the Springfield College of Music, with the plan of becoming a singer.

Mr. Steiger was first employed by the Sangamo Electric Company in its enameling department. After two years, 1909-1911, with this concern, he entered the Springfield Post Office. In the beginning he was assigned to the mailing division. Then he was transferred to the inquiry department, then to the general department. Eventually, he was assigned to special air mail assignments and in this capacity had charge of the largest single airmail shipment in the world and took his first flight with Charles A. Lindberg. When he left the airmail division, he became bookkeeper and Civil Service secretary in the Post Office and afterward was money order cashier. After he had held this last office for a time, Mr. Steiger became so ill that he was forced to retire and go to Florida. There he remained eighteen months. He was recalled to accept appointment as Acting Postmaster of Springfield, and on April 1, 1949, he assumed this office.

Mr. Steiger married Lillian E. Adams of Springfield in that city in July, 1911. Three children were born to them. The first, Anna E. Steiger, born on April 8, 1912, died on June 8, 1942. The other children are William A. Steiger, Jr., born on August 2, 1914, who married Evelyn Margaret Greslie and is the

father of three children, Sharon Suzanne, born May 31, 1946, William A., III, born December 8, 1947, and Stephanie Anne, born August 10, 1949; and John Charles Steiger, born on February 15, 1923, who married Ellen Lorene Lock on October 19, 1947. Mr. Steiger is a member of the Grace Lutheran Church, Springfield, Ill., and the family attends the Third Presbyterian Church.

The Acting Postmaster has been a member of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks since 1925 and is also a member of the National Association of Postmasters. He is general chairman of the inter-department group insurance pay roll savings plan of group five and is one of those who promotes the purchase by postal employees of Government bonds. He is a former president of the Lincoln Home Collectors Club and member in the Masonic order. His hobbies include the collection of airmail stamps and envelopes, coins and autographs. His administration of the post office has done much to accelerate the flow of business in Springfield, and his civic activities have contributed to cultural developments.

JOHN CHRISTIAN DALLENBACH, M.D.

The extent of the leadership of Dr. John Christian Dallenbach of Champaign among medical men in Central Illinois may be measured somewhat by the fact that twice in the nearly three decades he has been a member of the Champaign County Medical Society he has been president of that organization. Other factors pointing to his leadership are his record as president of the staff of Burnham City Hospital and as a member of the staff of Champaign County Hospital. Outside the medical world he has been president of the Champaign City Board of Education and a member of the United States Selective Service System for Champaign County. The first physician from Champaign County called to active duty in World War I, he not only served as a medical officer in that conflict but has since then been, first, a Colonel and, then, Honorary Colonel, in the Medical Reserve. He is active in all phases of health and welfare work and in civic life at Champaign—and, on the lighter side, has the traditional appearance of a doctor, for he has worn a Van Dyke beard since his graduation from medical school.

Dr. Dallenbach was born in Champaign on December 22, 1881, the son of John Jacob and Anna Caroline (Mittendorf) Dallenbach. His father was a native of Ripley, Ohio, and was



HONORABLE WILLIAM A. STEIGER

the son of John Dallenbach, who left Ohio in 1856 and, establishing himself and family in what was then called West Urbana and is now part of Champaign, opened a meat market. The son, who accompanied his parents to Champaign, was also in the meat market business there from 1877 to 1917. Anna Caroline Dallenbach was the daughter of Christian and Hanna (Schreiber) Mitten-dorf.

Dr. Dallenbach received his early education in the elementary and high schools of Cham-paign. From 1899 to 1902 he was a pre-medical student at the University of Illinois and in 1906 he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the university. That same year he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in Phila-delphia. In the immediate year that followed Dr. Dallenbach was an intern at the Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia. At college he had been elected to Phi Sigma Kappa and Alpha Kappa Kappa Fraternities.

From 1908 to 1911 Dr. Dallenbach prac-ticed his profession at Seattle, Washington. Since 1912 he has been in practice in Cham-paign, where he now maintains an office at 421 Illinois Building, 113 North Neil Street.

In the days when he was still an intern, Dr. Dallenbach went to New York City and on November 17, 1907, married Reba Burr Bryan of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They have three children—Elita, now Mrs. Homer Dre-mann and the mother of Homer, Diane and Daniel Dremann; Jay Christian Dallenbach, and Rosana Carolyn, now Mrs. Howard Ran-dall. Dr. and Mrs. Dallenbach reside at 1018 West Church Street, Champaign, and are ac-tive in social life of that city.

Dr. Dallenbach's professional, organiza-tional, civic and military history is of dis-tinguished character. To describe the mili-tary first: he was commissioned a First Lieu-tenant in the United States Army Medical Corps on March 13, 1916. He went on active duty June 1, 1917, and was commissioned a Captain in August, 1917. He was promoted to Major in the following February, and became Surgeon of the 332nd Field Artillery with which he served from September, 1917, to March, 1919. In 1924 he was commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel in the Medical Reserve and from 1926 to 1946 he was a Colonel. Since 1948 he has been an Honorary Colonel.

Dr. Dallenbach was president of the Illi-nois Department of the Reserve Officers As-sociation from 1934 to 1935. He was National Surgeon of the association in 1938-1939 and

president of the Sixth Corps Area Reserve Officers Association in 1941-1942. He is a member of the Association of Military Surg-eons and the American Military Institute.

In his civilian professional career, Dr Dal-lenbach has been on the staff of Burnham City Hospital since 1913 and was the staff president from 1944 to 1946. He was on the staff of Champaign County Hospital from 1931 to 1945. A member of the Champaign County Medical Society since 1912, he was president in 1921 and again in 1949. From 1934 to 1943 he was president of the Cham-paign Board of Education and from 1940 to 1946 he was a member of the Selective Serv-ice System. Aside from the organizations mentioned, he is also a member of the Ameri-can Legion; the 40 and 8; the Military Order of the World War; the Champaign Country Club; the Masonic order, the Rotary Club of Champaign and the Champaign Lodge, Benev-olent and Protective Order of Elks. He was president of the Illinois Elks Association in 1931-1932. He has been on the board of the Salvation Army of Champaign since 1940. He is a Republican. Fishing is his favorite recreation and taking motion pictures his hobby.

A distinguished figure physically and pro-fessionally, Dr. Dallenbach has won the af-fection of thousands.

ROY L. ADRIAN

In Coles County, Roy L. Adrian of Mat-toon is perhaps best known as an auctioneer. But Mr. Adrian was also active as the oper-ator of the Adrian Cape Cod Restaurant in Mattoon and as an automobile dealer, being a partner in Adrian-Ball Motors, a Mattoon firm holding the franchise for the Willys-Overland make of automobiles in Coles Coun-ty. Mr. Adrian is interested in civic and re-ligious affairs in the city and county, and is popular in all sections of the county.

He was born in Coles County on July 28, 1916, one of the four children of James Roy and Viola (Cox) Adrian. His father, also a native of Coles County, was also an auction-eer, but in addition operated as a farmer and worked as a mail carrier out of the Mat-toon Post Office. He died on October 1, 1933, and now lies at rest in Dodge Grove Cemetery, Mattoon. Viola Cox Adrian, who is another native of Coles County, survives her husband.

Roy L. Adrian was educated in the public schools of Coles County. Years after he had begun his business career and had decided to

concentrate on auctioneering, he went to the Reppert School of Auctioneering at Decatur, Indiana, from which he was graduated on December 22, 1945.

Mr. Adrian's career really began when, as a boy, he went to work for his father on the farm in Coles County. He was first in the restaurant business at 15 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, but gave up this enterprise. In 1941, he reentered the field and established the popular eating institution known today as the Adrian Cape Cod Restaurant which he sold in September, 1947. In World War II, he served for a year with the armed forces and then returned to build up his business interests. The Adrian Cape Cod Restaurant has achieved much of its popularity through its excellent drive-in facilities and curb service. Mr. Adrian has been active as an auctioneer since 1941, but especially so since he completed the auctioneering course at Decatur in 1945. This activity takes most of his time these days, with others looking after his other business interests. He and Sam Ball of Mattoon organized Adrian-Ball Motors, the Willys-Overland dealers for Coles County, in 1945. Their plant is located at 1213 North Eleventh Street, Mattoon.

On July 28, 1940, Mr. Adrian married Irma B. Haage of Hammond, Indiana, and on June 25, 1941, a daughter, Gerry L. Adrian, was born to them. Their home is at 2304 Prairie Avenue, Mattoon, and they worship in the First Presbyterian Church of Mattoon.

Mr. Adrian is active in the Republican Party and the Illinois State Auctioneers Association. Through his various business, civic and social interests he is helping stimulate the growth, progress and prosperity of his entire region.

VAL STOTLAR

In the automobile industry since the period preceding World War I, Val Stotlar of DuQuoin has had the Dodge franchise in that city for more than three decades and has been associated with both the original Dodge Brothers and the Chrysler Corporations. He is president of Val Stotlar, Inc., the Dodge dealer in DuQuoin, and is also financially interested in The Stotlar Motors, Inc., Dodge and Plymouth dealers at Benton, and the Stotlar-Allen Motor Company, Dodge dealers at West Frankfort. His civic activities are legion and he is known in DuQuoin as a skillful bowler.

Val Stotlar was born in Herrin, Williamson County, on November 12, 1894, the son of James L. and Alice (Cox) Stotlar. His father,

a native of Pennsylvania, was for many years a farmer in Williamson County. His mother was born in Illinois. Val Stotlar was born seventh among nine children. The others included Maude; Fred and Harry, both of whom are deceased; Leon, Lelle, Kent, Bob and Inez Stotlar.

Mr. Stotlar attended the elementary and high schools of Herrin, graduating from high school, where he played baseball and basketball, in 1912. He completed his education at Brown's Business College at Marion, in the same county. He then went to work for the Egyptian Powder Company, with which he remained three years, with the responsibilities of office manager, bookkeeper and payroll clerk. Eager to enter the developing automobile business, he went to Detroit from the Egyptian Powder Company and took the four-months' training course offered to prospective salesmen by Dodge Brothers. Soon afterward, the United States declared war on the Central Powers in Europe and Mr. Stotlar went into the Army. His training course came in handy to the nation's World War I war effort, and he was assigned to the motor corps as a supply clerk and parts man, and this work he performed for the Army until his honorable discharge in 1919. He then returned to his native Southern Illinois and in the same year established Val Stotlar, Inc., the Dodge agency of which he is still president, and he is still operating on the franchise he obtained after completing his course in 1917. With the Dodge cars he handles is paired the Plymouth. His DuQuoin establishment is modern and operating with complete shop equipment. The business has grown from the tin shed with dirt floor—a converted livery stable—into its present up-to-date quarters with a tremendous volume of sales. Mr. Stotlar is secretary and treasurer of the Dodge-Plymouth agency at Benton, Stotlar Motors, Inc., and a large stockholder in the Stotlar-Allen Motor Company, Dodge-Plymouth dealers at West Frankfort.

He married Pauline Wiehm, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Wiehm of DuQuoin, and both are active in the social, civic and cultural life of the community. Mr. Stotlar is former chairman of the Elks Cuntry Club and, bowling being his favorite sport and greatest recreational skill, he is president of the DuQuoin City Bowling League. He is active in the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association, the National Automobile Dealers Association, the DuQuoin Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and in Re-



VAL STOTLAR

publican circles. His pioneering efforts on behalf of the automobile have done much to popularize that vehicle in Southern Illinois and thus to bring progress to the region.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH DECATUR, ILLINOIS

To the reader there must necessarily be discovered a monotonous sameness in the various histories unfolded in this book, all carrying the salient items of early arrivals, occasional visits by pioneer priests, building of church and subsequent growth. In spite of difference of localities, the factual chronicle will repeat itself, the motive of upbuilding does not greatly differ from region to region, the impulses that are valid for one parish are valid for another. Still a variety is not indistinguishable. As no two faces are exactly alike so no two parishes are exactly the same; one is not a duplicate of the other; each is differentiated from the other by the limitations of its respective locality; each story of battle and partial victory preserving its note of local coloring.

The first Catholics in Macon County brought with them the valuable assets of Celtic blood. They were a handful of exiles, sorrow laden, fleeing from a persecuting Protestant government, that had linked nature with itself for the extinction of a noble and ancient race. Their possessions were strong arms, love of that sweet thing called liberty and the gift of immemorial Catholic Faith. Ecclesiastically the beginnings were marked by humility and lowliness, the tiny mustard seed took root and has in the past seventy years grown into a not inconspicuous tree. Not without suffering and self-denial, if not with the confession of blood, they have made the confession of labor and privations. They came from a land "Where every inch of the soil is drenched with the blood of its Martyrs" and they faithfully handed these traditions down to their children and these are today the proud inheritances of their grandchildren. In July, 1853, Father Prendergast held the first Catholic services known to have been celebrated in Decatur, at the residence of Mrs. Marvin on West Main Street, and then and there baptized the first child, Mary Phalin. His pastorate lasted one year and in 1854 Father Cusack took up the work and conducted it with zeal and success. During his incumbency, the first church was built on West Prairie St. He remained until 1859.

The next pastor was Father Anton Vogt

and his tenure of office came to a close in 1870. In a short time he imparted some of his energy to the growing flock and in 1863 replaced the frame structure which inadequately served as a church, by a more pretentious building of brick, the cornerstone of which was laid on March 17, and the dedication followed in 1864.

His successor was Father Richard Walsh, who remained for three years; his activities were somewhat circumscribed by illness and at his resignation in 1873 the bishop appointed Father Timothy Hickey. His administration continued until 1876. In this short time his lovable characteristics made him the ideal, "Soggarth Aroon." He took a very strong stand on the Temperance question, which at that time was being very keenly and often bitterly discussed. He founded a Temperance Society and went on the public platform as a determined foe of the saloon. After his removal to Jacksonville in 1876 the people were fortunate in having Father Mackin for pastor, who remained with them until his lamented death in 1898. During his pastorate the present parsonage was purchased, but due to the protracted sickness of the good Father (his health for the last six years of his life being very precarious) the purchase price was not secured and a burdensome debt was the legacy left to his successor.

In 1898 the present pastor was called to shepherd a faithful but discouraged people. After some years of very distasteful and plodding efforts, the debt was finally lifted and for the first time in its history St. Patrick's congregation sent up, without a dissenting voice, but with loud acclaim, a joyous *Deo Gratias* to the Giver of all good gifts.

Now the congregation deserved a breathing spell, but their desire for rest was rudely disturbed by a letter from Bishop Ryan to the pastor, to erect a "New Church (the old one had been enlarged and renovated) large enough to seat one thousand people and built of Bedford stone." It was to be a "thing of beauty and a joy forever"—an elegant and faultless edifice. The order at first was considered an apocalyptic dream, on the Bishop's part, but episcopal visions have sometimes the secret of realization.

By this time the pastor, having tested the mettle of his people, girded himself for the new work. As the plans unfolded he found that their spirit chafed within them until they could realize the dream of their Bishop. They kept as a text for meditation "Neither will

I offer burnt offerings to the Lord which cost me nothing."

The style selected for the new church was Gothic "endowed" in the words of Newman "with a profound and commanding beauty which probably the Church will not see surpassed until it attains to the Celestial City."

The building was dedicated November 1909, by Bishop James Ryan. Rev. William Robinson, S.J. delivered the sermon, morning and evening. The structure is considered the finest in the state outside of Chicago, and during the summer months is the show place for travelers within a radius of one hundred fifty miles. Its lines are harmonious, intellectual, peaceful and devotional. In fact architect and pastor builder "better than they knew as the conscious stone to beauty grew". Why should we not here mention the name of the architect, one of the best in the country, George Staudahar, Rock Island, Illinois.

Some three years ago the entire interior was renovated at the cost of \$23,000. In 1912 a new school was built at the cost of \$32,000.

In closing the fragmentary sketch, it should be added that this congregation was in a flourishing condition until 1925, when it was subjected to a very serious condition, losing by excision a third portion of its body. As a result it will take several years before the recovery of its former vigor and usefulness. The educational activities of the parish have been in the hands of the Ursulines since 1873. The parish is very deeply indebted to this Order of Sisters for the preservation and fostering of its Faith. Their work as far as their humility allows them to unveil it, will be read on another page. "Our thanks are registered, where every day, we turn the leaf to read them". And not only have they cultivated the religious spirit but they have implanted in their pupils the true principles of patriotism.

Christianity and war have walked together down through the centuries; nothing sacred, nothing precious, would have survived had not men fought for their wives, their children and their national life. And while men slay, men must give up their lives—sacrifice unto death.

St. Patrick's response to that fateful appeal in April, 1917, was to send one hundred ninety-seven men, the pick of her young manhood in the pride and prime of life, into the European slaughter house. And St. Patrick's will ever cherish as one of its dearest treasures a Service Flag with one hundred

ninety-five blue stars and seven in gleaming gold, to attest the supreme sacrifice consummated.

Rev. George H. Powell succeeded Father Murphy on Sept. 18, 1946. The new Parish Center was opened on August 14th, 1949.

REVEREND GEORGE HAROLD POWELL, S.T.B.

Noted for his interest in secular as well as ecclesiastical affairs, the Reverend Father George Harold Powell of Decatur has won a reputation throughout downstate Illinois. He is pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Decatur, but is active in many ways outside the church, serving both his communicants and the community at large. He is especially active in health and welfare programs.

Father Powell was born in Alton on May 5, 1894, the son of Benjamin Simpson and Ann (Geenty) Powell. His father, a glass blower, was born in England in 1857, and came to the United States when a young man. Ann Geenty Powell was born in Kentucky in 1854. Their son, destined for the Catholic priesthood, began his education in the Alton parochial school and continued in the Alton High School. Later, he was a student at the Franciscan Monastery in Washington, D. C., at Quincy College, Kenrick Seminary and finally Catholic University in Washington. On June 10, 1922, he was ordained to the priesthood at Webster Groves, Missouri. After serving at various other places, he was sent to St. Patrick's in Decatur as pastor. In World War I, Father Powell was with the 46th Infantry. He has been active in the Red Cross, the Community Chest and the Association of Commerce in Decatur, and is a beloved figure in the community.

DENNIS BURDETTE McGEHEE

Formerly an executive of the O'Gara Coal Company, with which he was associated for twenty years in Southern Illinois and at Chicago, Dennis Burdette McGehee is the founder and co-operator of the Saline Motor Company at Harrisburg, a firm with a tremendous business and with regional prestige. In this enterprise his son, Gordon McGehee, is his partner. Mr. McGehee has made a reputation for his public services, especially his contributions to educational development at Harrisburg and his work in heading disaster relief.

Born at Carrier Mills, in Saline County, on September 26, 1879, Mr. McGehee is the son of Robert S. and Julia Elizabeth (Stiff) Mc-



DENNIS BURDETTE McGEHEE

Gehee. His father was a native of the same county. A tinner by trade, he operated a general store in Harrisburg. He was the son of Moses Pierce McGehee, who for years operated a blacksmith's shop at Galatia, also in Saline County. Later he was the partner of a man named Pierce at Galatia and hauled supplies for the general store there from Shawneetown, the seat of Gallatin County, by wagon. Moses McGehee, a Democrat, was the first county judge to preside in the old courthouse at Harrisburg. Dennis McGehee's mother, also born in Illinois, was the daughter of a man who served in John A. Logan's Regiment in the Civil War. Dennis McGehee was educated in the elementary and high schools at Omaha, Illinois. Following his graduation from high school in 1899, he went to work in a drug store at Harrisburg, as a clerk. In 1902, Mr. McGehee moved to St. Louis, where he worked in another drug store for two and one-half years. His pay there was \$20 a month at the start. In the Spring of 1904 he returned to Harrisburg, where he became bookkeeper and man-of-all-work for the Harrisburg Mining and Coal Company, receiving \$40 a month. The following year the O'Gara Coal Company took over, and he remained with this firm until 1925, progressing from shipping clerk for fourteen mines in 1905 to office manager in 1907 and assistant to the general superintendent in 1910. From 1920 to 1925 Mr. McGehee was in the home office in Chicago, as assistant to the vice-president. In May, 1926, Mr. McGehee again returned to Harrisburg, where he organized the Saline Motor Company, a partnership operating with the Chevrolet franchise both in Harrisburg and in Eldorado, in the same county. In 1940, Mr. McGehee traded his interest in the Eldorado business for the entire business in Harrisburg, and since that time he has been sole owner of the enterprise at the county seat. He has an extensive sale of Chevrolets.

Mr. McGehee married Clyde Thompson, the daughter of Judge J. L. and Mrs. Thompson of Saline County, on October 7, 1908. Their son, Gordon McGehee, associated with his father in the business, married Ann Newkirk and is the father of Mona and Sarah Elizabeth McGehee. The family worships in the Presbyterian Church.

A member of the Harrisburg board of education since 1932, Mr. McGehee served as its president in 1949. He was one of those who were instrumental in building the McKinley School, and he has otherwise furth-

ered the cause of education. In the 1937 flood, he was chairman of the Red Cross Disaster Committee. A charter member of the Rotary Club of Harrisburg, he has been its secretary three times. He also belongs to the Executives Club of Harrisburg, is a charter member of the Elks Lodge of Harrisburg and, a holder of the thirty-second degree in Masonry, is a Noble of Ainad Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at East St. Louis. Reading is one of his hobbies; he has a library of more than 1200 books. Saline County regards him as one of its most valuable citizens.

JAMES TILLMAN EWING

One of the large lumber companies of Illinois is the Ewing Lumber Company of Effingham, of which James Tillman Ewing was a co-founder and which he continues to operate today. Mr. Ewing, aside from his leadership in the lumber world, is well known in the hotel and financial worlds, having been associated with them also in the past. He is a former alderman of the City of Effingham and a former chairman of the Effingham County Republican Central Committee, and is prominent in the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Ewing was born near Neoga, Illinois, on February 3, 1873, the son of James M. and Prudentia T. (Stone) Ewing. James M. Ewing, born in Vigo County, Indiana, on July 31, 1825, was a prominent farmer and public servant in Neoga Township. He bought his 240-acre farm near Neoga in 1853. For six terms he served as Neoga Township Supervisor. James Tillman Ewing was educated in the Maple Grove Country School, the Neoga High School and Austin College at Effingham. Following his graduation from the college, Mr. Ewing became bookkeeper for the Camden Lumber Company. Later, he accepted the post of assistant sales manager of the Southern Pine Lumber Company of St. Louis, with which he remained from 1895 to 1902. In January, 1903, Mr. Ewing, together with his brother, Norton E. Ewing, established the Ewing Lumber Company in Effingham. In 1936 and 1937 he was a director of the South Arkansas Lumber Company of St. Louis. At one time he was a director of the Benwood Hotel of Effingham and of the Effingham Building and Loan Association.

On October 30, 1901, Mr. Ewing married Blanche Maxwell in Effingham. She is the daughter of James and Mary Maxwell. Mrs. Ewing is active in the various women's organizations of the Presbyterian Church of

Effingham and in women's clubs of the city at large. Mr. Ewing has been an elder in the church since about 1920.

Mr Ewing, a Republican, cast his first vote for William B. McKinley and has since voted for every other Republican candidate. He has served his city as alderman and for years led the Effingham County Republican organization. He is a member of Effingham Lodge, No. 149, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; the Mississippi Valley Consistory, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and Ainad Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at East St. Louis. For relaxation he likes to read. He and Mrs. Ewing reside at 517 South Fifth Street, Effingham. Mr. Ewing has given leadership to many movements which have brought about improvements in Effingham and the surrounding area.

DOMENIC FRISINA

The career of Domenic Frisina of Springfield once more illustrates how determination and ability can overcome any handicap—and how opportunity can be found by anyone willing to seek and work for it in America.

Born in Italy in 1891, Domenic Frisina came to the United States with an uncle when he was thirteen years old. Mr. Frisina learned fast, and soon he could handle the English language and also many jobs. In 1909, when he was still only eighteen, he built a small theater in Pawnee, Sangamon County. This was the beginning of a career which has made him a power and a popular figure in the amusement world.

From that one little theater in Pawnee Mr. Frisina has developed a chain of fifty-eight theaters. Most of these are located in his adopted state, Illinois, but there are a few in neighboring Missouri. Perhaps the best known of the houses is the Roxy Theater, in Springfield, where Mr. Frisina, as head of the Frisina Amusement Company, maintains headquarters. He employs 755 men and women in his enterprises. Also, he owns 1260 acres of extremely fertile farm land.

Mr. Frisina married Maria Berta, and they are the parents of one daughter—Rosemarie Frisina Bell and one son, James. The family home is in Taylorville, seat of Christian County, where Mr. Frisina is an outstanding civic worker as well as farmer and theater owner.

Mr. Frisina is active in the Lions Club, Taylorville, and president of the Bank of Pawnee. His theaters have not only contributed to the gayety of life and to amusement

in general, given employment to many, but also helped accelerate the commercial and residential growth of numerous communities. Through them and his other activities Mr. Frisina has become a noted citizen of not only Illinois but the Middle West. He is a true American in the service he is giving his fellow citizens.

CARL E. DAVIS

Once a "printer's devil," Carl E Davis of Springfield made his real start in life as a streetcar motorman. From this humble beginning, with its contacts with the riding public, Mr. Davis has risen to the office of vice president of the Springfield Transportation Company, the organization with which he began his career. In addition to striving to give the capital city the best in transportation, Mr. Davis serves with groups and independently seeks to improve the community in general and to develop it as a place for business and residence.

Born in Petersburg, seat of Menard County, on November 28, 1883, Carl E. Davis is the son of the man who operated that community's weekly newspaper in those days and a concomitant printing business. After attending Petersburg's grade and high schools, Carl Davis learned the printing business under his father, setting type, running an old-fashioned press and doing odd jobs in the plant. His work in the newspaper composing room and elsewhere enabled him to save \$240. This paid for an electrical engineering correspondence course. In 1904, when he was twenty-one, Mr. Davis became a motorman for the streetcar company now called the Springfield Transportation Company.

The history of this business is an interesting one, as told by Mr. Davis. The first transportation charter granted in Springfield was issued to a group in 1861. But about five years elapsed before the group began carrying out the provisions of the charter. Then only one streetcar was installed. This operated on a couple of streets a few blocks long. The company was called the Springfield City Horse Railway Company. Within a few years, the owners and the operating names changed frequently. Among the names assumed for the streetcar operations were Citizens Railway Company, Peoples Electric Railway Company and Consolidated Street Railway Company. Later, the streetcar system was owned and operated by the electric and gas utility under the name of the Illinois Power Company. Eventually, the streetcar



DOMENIC FRISINA

system was sold to the present owners, the United Transit Corporation, which operates such facilities in not only Illinois but also in Virginia, Ohio and Tennessee. At the time Transit corporation purchased the business, the name was changed to Springfield Transportation Company. Mr. Davis, from his start as motorman in 1904, rose to membership on the track maintenance crew, from there to car dispatcher, and then to supervisor and manager. To him is attributed much of the growth of the company.

Mr. Davis married Grace Mollergen, also a native of Illinois, on January 22, 1903. Mrs. Davis' parents came to America from Sweden and her father assumed a position of great prominence as a coal mine owner and operator. There are three children— Addison Davis; Harold Davis; and Donna June, now Mrs. Herbert Sonntag and mother of Herbert Sonntag, Jr., and Beverly Joyce Sonntag. The family home is in Springfield. Mr. Davis' office is at 610 East Ash Street, Springfield.

Mr. Davis is active in the Masonic order, the Springfield Business Men's Association, the Illinois Manufacturers Association and the Springfield Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His contribution to the development of Springfield is recognized as outstanding.

G. F. DEGLER

Degler is a name which five men—a father and his sons—have made famous in Coles County. Their success has been won mainly in agriculture, both through the working of farms and through the supply of farm implements to the rural community, but the family operations have also been in the city in the form of grain and real estate enterprises and also in the production of oil. The head of this successful and influential family was the late G. F. Degler. Carrying on the traditions he established are his sons Melvin F. Degler, who operates the Mattoon Grain Company and the Mattoon Implement Company, Raymond H. Degler, Don D. Degler and Kenneth W. Degler, who are farmers in Coles County outside Mattoon. Like their father, the sons are active in civic work and in religious affairs.

G. F. Degler, the father, was born in Germany on February 27, 1867, and was brought to the United States by his widowed mother, Caroline Degler, when he was seven years old. The family soon established itself at Mattoon and there G. F. Degler attended the public schools. At an early age he acquired

an intense interest in horses and as a youth showed them over a wide area for a horse breeder. He took great pride in horses, specializing in the heavy draft type, and was an avid horse fancier, trainer and showman.

On May 6, 1899, Mr. Degler married Marie Knebel, the ceremony taking place in Coles County. She was the daughter of Frederick and Elsie Knebel. Four sons were born to the marriage.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Degler lived on one farm until Mr. Degler's death, and on that farm they reared their sons. From the farm Mr. Degler expanded. He built several valuable business buildings on lots in Mattoon and acquired extensive land holdings, including a farm in Canada. In 1931 he became owner of the Mattoon Grain Company which Melvin Degler, the oldest son, has operated since that time. G. F. Degler was keenly interested in the Coles County oil boom and drilled two producing oil wells on his land. He was a member of the Lutheran Church of Dorans, in Coles County, serving on its board for several years. He was also a member of the board of the Memorial Methodist Hospital in Mattoon for many years and for a quarter of a century was on the board of the National Bank of Mattoon.

Mr. Degler was five feet eleven inches tall, weighed about 200 pounds and walked erectly and briskly. He was calm and deliberate in his dealings it is said of him that he was always ready to lend a hand and give advice to anyone who sought it, with a manner courteous and pleasant to all, and a neat appearance.

Melvin F. Degler was born in Mattoon on April 21, 1900. After attending Mattoon's public schools, he went to the Sweeney Auto School in Kansas City, Missouri; the Coyne Electrical School in Chicago and Utterback's Business College in Mattoon. He joined his father in the operation of the grain elevator in 1931 and since 1944 has also engaged in the retail farm machinery business in Mattoon. In addition, he farms about 500 acres of land near that city. Melvin Degler married Lucille Merkle, daughter of William and Emma Merkle, in Mattoon on June 28, 1936. He and his wife organized the Mattoon Implement Company in 1944, and have built it into one of the largest in its field in Central Illinois. They are the agents for the John Deere farm equipment concern. Their store is at 27th and Broadway, Mattoon. Melvin Degler is a member of the Rotary Club of Mattoon,

the Mattoon Association of Commerce and the Illinois Retail Equipment Association. He and his wife worship in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Dorans.

Raymond H. Degler was born in Mattoon on June 14, 1902, and was educated in Mattoon's elementary and high schools. He is now farming four hundred acres northwest of Mattoon, and is one of the leading agricultural men of Coles County. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Mattoon and with his family worships in the Methodist Church. He married Hazel Johnson, daughter of Frank and Amanda Johnson, in Champaign on March 15, 1928. They have one daughter, Marilyn Degler, who was born on August 21, 1933. The Raymond H. Deglers reside at 1601 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon.

Don D. Degler was born in Mattoon and also received his education in its grade and high schools. He, too, is a prominent farmer, his address being Rural Route No. 1, Mattoon. On September 18, 1938, he married Freda Mohlenhoff, the daughter of Herman and Tillie Mohlenhoff. The ceremony was performed in Coles County. They have two children, Joy Irene Degler and Donald Thomas Degler, all worship in the Lutheran Church. Mr. Degler's hobby is photography.

Kenneth W. Degler was born on March 6, 1912, in Mattoon Township. He, too, was educated in the city's public schools and since completing his high school education he has been farming northwest of Mattoon. His farm consists of five hundred acres. In World War II, he spent forty-six months with the United States Army Air Force and is now active in the American Legion, serving on his post's board of directors. He married Marylea Souers of McLeansboro on June 16, 1945, and they are the parents of twin sons, Michael and Stephen Degler, who were born on October 28, 1947. They worship in the Lutheran Church. He has done his part in extending the fame of the Degler name.

In fact, the four sons, through all their activities, have done much to carry forward the entire reputation of the family as first established by the father, the late G. F. Degler.

JOHN FRANKLIN MITCHELL

The name of John Franklin Mitchell has stood for service in a wide section of Illinois since 1913. Mr. Mitchell, who developed a reputation as mortician and public-spirited citizen of unequalled character in those thirty-five years from his start in business to his

death in 1948, made his name known at Newton, at Gillespie and finally at Mattoon. In that community, he established the Mitchell Funeral Home, an institution of tremendous prestige now operated by his widow, Mrs. Eva Irene Cutshall Mitchell, and his son-in-law and daughter, George Sidney Jerdan and Lois Nadine Mitchell Jerdan, who, in continuing traditions founded by the late Mr. Mitchell, are establishing themselves as foremost citizens of the community.

John Franklin Mitchell was born on December 2, 1890, on a farm west of Olney, Illinois. He was the fifth of a family of eight children, and his parents were John Hezakiah and Mary (Wheeler) Mitchell. The father, who was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on August 8, 1858, was a farmer. Early in life he was taken by his parents in a covered wagon from Des Moines to Illinois. On this journey his father was stricken with typhoid fever. The family stopped at an Indian reservation where all were lodged by the Indians and the sick man was nursed to health. The family then proceeded to Illinois and on reaching that State homesteaded in Richland County. John Hezekiah Mitchell was one of the early pioneers and farmers in the county and his father, Joshua Mitchell, might be considered one of the first developers of that portion of the county lying west of Olney. Joshua Mitchell served the nation in the Civil War. He married Martha Alexander. Their son, John H. Mitchell, died on January 16, 1948, in his ninetieth year. The mother of John Franklin Mitchell also came of an old pioneer family of the region west of Olney. Her parents were John Wesley and Isabel (Wolfe) Wheeler.

John Franklin Mitchell spent his childhood on the family farm and from that farm went to rural schools, sometimes walking two and one-half miles. After completing the eighth grade and part of the ninth and tenth grades in rural schools, he went to Illinois State Normal College at Charleston. In those days a high school diploma was not required for college matriculation. After receiving his teacher's certificate at Charleston, John Franklin Mitchell began teaching in the rural schools of Richland County. Later he became assistant principal at Noble, Illinois. In 1913 he attended Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Chicago and upon graduation entered a period of apprenticeship at the J. K. Platner Funeral Home in Chicago and, later, at the J. S. Kibler's Mortuary in Olney.

In November, 1913, Mr. Mitchell established his first business. This was the Mitchell



JOHN FRANKLIN MITCHELL

and Kibler Mortuary in Newton. Subsequently, he practiced his profession at Gillespie where he remained until 1934. In that year he established the Mitchell Funeral Home in Mattoon. From that time until his death, 1204 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, was the location of both the funeral establishment and his residence. It has been said of him that he always considered his profession as a funeral director first and foremost, having the deepest consideration for the people whom he served. In his lifetime he trained seven successful apprentices in the embalming and funeral directing profession.

On January 1, 1914, Mr. Mitchell married Eva Irene Cutshall, the daughter of William and Caroline (Fritschle) Cutshall. Mrs. Mitchell's father was born in Indiana and her mother in Olney, Illinois. Mr. Cutshall was also a veteran of the Civil War. Mrs. Mitchell, who is a prominent citizen of Mattoon, has been a teacher of music as well as an assistant to her husband in his funeral work, and she is now one of the heads of the Mitchell Funeral Home. She is a member of numerous lodges, civic and church organizations.

The daughter, Mrs. Lois Nadine Mitchell Jerdan, is the only child. She was born at Olney on February 16, 1921, and received her early education at Gillespie and in the Mattoon Junior and Senior High Schools. In May, 1942, she was graduated from the MacMurray College for Women at Jacksonville, Illinois, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. She began teaching in Mattoon's public schools in the fall of 1942, and later went on the faculty of one of the junior high schools with which she remained until 1946. She was married to George Sidney Jerdan on February 16, 1946, shortly after he was discharged from the United States Army Signal Corps, with which he had served with the rank of Captain in World War II. They have one son, Sidney Mitchell Jerdan, born August 7, 1949. Mr. Jerdan was graduated from the Mattoon Senior High School in 1938 and from the University of Illinois College of Engineering with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. In the war he served thirty-four months in North Africa and Italy and in the European Theater of Operations. After his separation from the service, Mr. Jerdan was associated with the General Electric Company until he entered the College of Mortuary Science at St. Louis. Since his graduation from that institution he has been associated with his wife and mother-in-law in the operation of the Mitchell Funeral Home.

The late Mr. Mitchell was always prominent in the Methodist Church of which he was a member. At Gillespie he was a trustee and official board member and in Mattoon he was also on the official board of the First Methodist Church. He was a sponsor of the Boy Scout movement at Gillespie and was county chairman of the Red Cross for a period. He was on the Gillespie Board of Education and during this tenure of office was instrumental in the building of one of the largest gymnasiums in Central Illinois. As a member of the Illinois Funeral Directors Association he was very active and served on various committees. Mr. Mitchell was on the building committee of the Moose Lodge and various committees of the Mattoon Association of Commerce, and was active in numerous bodies of the Masonic order in which he held the thirty-second degree; of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Elks in which he was treasurer of the Crippled Children's Clinic; the High Twelve Club of Mattoon of which he was a charter member; the Dramatic Order Knights of Khorassan; and the Illinois and National Funeral Directors Association. A member of the Republican Party, Mr. Mitchell stood for the best interests of the people and any betterment of all phases and levels of the American form of government. He was continually working for free enterprise and all other freedoms which are the basic fundamentals of American democracy, and was a real pioneer in his chosen profession—a man who will long be remembered. His death occurred on March 29, 1948, and he lies at rest in Dodge Grove Cemetery, Mattoon.

ROY EVERETT ENLOE, Ph.G.

Since 1833 the establishment now known as the Lincoln Square Drug Store—at 117 East Main Street, or Lincoln Square—has been a center of activities in Decatur. For a time it was a general store and also Decatur's Post Office. In 1845, it became a pharmacy and since then it has remained in that field of business. Roy Everett Enloe first became associated with the drug store as a Registered Pharmacist in 1915, though his association with it in after years was not continuous. In July, 1939, he bought it from his employer, E. A. West, and since then has devoted himself to its further development. He has become well known in the business and professional life of Macon County.

Mr. Enloe was born at Niantic, Macon

County, Illinois, on July 8, 1891, the son of William Walter and Althea A. Enloe. His father, a farmer, was born in Bond County on January 19, 1860, and died in Decatur on May 15, 1933. Althea Enloe, born in Fayette County in 1862, died in Decatur in 1925. Mr. Enloe is a graduate of Vandalia High School, Fayette County, and holds the degree of Graduate of Pharmacy, received from Highland Park College of Pharmacy, Des Moines, Iowa, in 1914. On January 1, 1915, he became a pharmacist for Mr. West in Lincoln Square, but two years later, when the United States entered World War I, he took a military leave of absence and enlisted in the Army, being attached to the Medical Corps. Discharged in 1919, he went to Pearl City, Illinois, where until 1926 he operated his own drug store. Then he returned to Mr. West's employ in Decatur and there remained until in 1939 he purchased the business from Mr. West. The Lincoln Square Drug Store, located in Lincoln Square, once called "The Old Square," has an interesting history. It was first opened as a general store by William Cantrill, a Kentuckian who moved to Decatur in 1833, taking with him the first stock of general merchandise introduced in Decatur. In this building in 1835-36 he officiated as Postmaster, "filing" the mail in a box in the corner of the store and sometimes carrying it, as he made distribution, in his hat. The population at the time was only slightly more than one hundred in those days, and mail was a luxury that the receiver not the sender paid for. Mr. Cantrill died in November, 1881, but in July, 1845, he had sold his store to Dr. Roberts, who made a pharmacy of the place. About 1868 Dr. Roberts sold the drug store to W. C. Armstrong, who operated it until 1892 when he sold out to E. A. West. When Mr. West retired in July, 1939, and sold out to Mr. Enloe, he completed forty-seven years in Lincoln Square.

Mr. Enloe married Frances McGinn in September, 1919, and three children were born to them—Roy Everett Enloe, Jr., on July 13, 1900, now a Registered Pharmacist associated in business with his father; Lora Mae Enloe, who died in infancy, and Robert Walton Enloe, on April 2, 1926, who in 1950 was a student at James Millikin University, Decatur, and also assisting in the store. The family home is at 1935 North Monroe Street, Decatur. Mrs. Enloe is a Catholic, Mr. Enloe a Methodist.

Mr. Enloe is a member of the American Legion and is a Republican. He enjoys all

sports. He is described as having gray brown hair and blue eyes and as being five feet six inches tall and weighing 145 pounds—and having "a very likable disposition." He has contributed to Decatur's business growth.

CLINTON DANIEL SWICKARD, M.D.

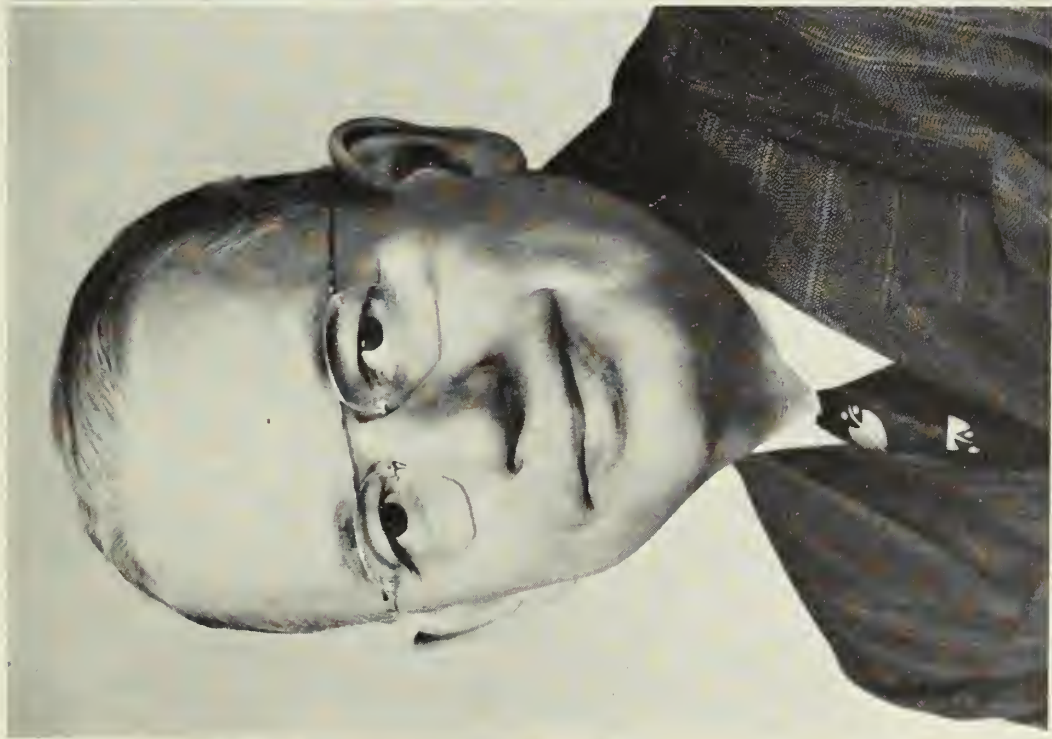
One of downstate Illinois' most outstanding physicians and surgeons, Dr. Clinton Daniel Swickard of Charleston was born at Westfield, Illinois, on July 21, 1891, the son of William McHenry and Iola M. (Hardinger) Swickard. His father, born near Toledo, Illinois, and raised on a farm there, attended Westfield College and moved to Newman, Illinois, where he successfully operated a large hardware and implement business for nearly a half century. The mother, a native of Westfield, also attended Westfield College. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hardinger.

Dr. Swickard was graduated from the Newman Township High School. From 1910 to 1912 he was at the University of Illinois and from 1912 to 1914 at the University of Chicago, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science from the latter. In 1916, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine at Rush Medical College, Chicago, and for the next four months interned at Anna Durand Contagious Hospital and after that spent twelve months, also as interne, at Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago.

On April 6, 1918, Dr. Swickard was commissioned in the United States Army Medical Corps. After a period at Fort Riley, Kansas, he was attached to the American Expeditionary Force and sent to France. He was with the Amb. Co. No. 41, part of the First Army Sanitary Train, doing ambulance work until the Armistice. On March 24, 1919, he was ordered to inactive status at Camp Funston, Kansas. He then held the rank of First Lieutenant. But for the next twenty years, until he retired in 1939, Dr. Swickard was with the Medical Corps Reserve as a Captain.

On May 1, 1919, he began his practice in Charleston. Though his practice has been general, he has given special attention to a large volume of surgery, obstetrics and gynecology. Throughout the years he has had a partner or associate, and since 1921 has occupied the same offices in the Coles County seat.

Dr. Swickard married Ruth Elizabeth Stone, daughter of Eliza (Redden) and John Stone, at Newman on June 2, 1917. Mrs. Swickard, prominent in Coles County, was president of



CLINTON DANIEL SWICKARD, M.D.



MRS. RUTH ELIZABETH SWICKARD

the Charleston Women's Club in 1949 and 1950 and is active in the Coles-Cumberland Medical Society Auxiliary, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Columbian Reading Circle and the Presbyterian Church, of which, incidentally, Dr. Swickard is an elder. Dr. and Mrs. Swickard have four children—Ruth Elizabeth, born December 26, 1919, a graduate of Purdue University, now a home economist for Swift and Company at Boston; Daniel Clinton Swickard, born November 19, 1922, graduate of the University of Illinois, now with Indemnity Insurance Company at Des Moines, who married Margaret Tully Rugh and is the father of Margaret Tully Rugh, born Thanksgiving Day, 1948; George Emerson Swickard, born November 9, 1927, educated at Brown's Business College in Decatur; and Marjorie Talese, born October 24, 1930, educated at Oberlin College and University of Illinois, now the wife of Peter Eckert and both attending the University of Illinois at present.

Dr. Swickard is on the staff of M. A. Montgomery Memorial Sanitarium and has been secretary-treasurer of its board for eighteen years. He is also classified as surgeon for the Charleston Rotary Club. He is a charter member of Andrew Dunn Post, American Legion, and is a charter member and active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He belongs, too, to the Coles-Cumberland Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and to the Aesculapian Medical Society of Wabash Valley, of which he was president in 1948. He is also an active member of American Academy of General Practice. He is well known in Odd Fellows and Masonic circles. The kind of professional man who is constantly maintaining his education, he is honored in Charleston for his skill and personality.

CHARLES BOWEN BUSEY

At 604 West Green Street, in Urbana, stands the home in which one of the leading citizens of Central Illinois was born and in which he has lived all the more than three decades of his useful life. That man is Charles Bowen Busey, former automobile merchant now in the insurance and investment businesses and in the farming and real estate fields, as well as active in civic, fraternal and welfare organizations.

Five feet eight and one-half inches tall, weighing 165 pounds, with dark brown hair and medium complexion, Mr. Busey has an

illustrious ancestry. His parents were Charles Bowen Busey, Sr., and Louise McCormick (Carter) Busey. His father, also a native of Urbana, was a banker who volunteered in World War I and was killed just ten days before the Armistice—his death occurring on November 1, 1918. The American Government posthumously awarded him the Distinguished Service Cross. He was the only son of General Samuel T. Busey. Louise McCormick Carter Busey, born in Dallas, Texas, was the daughter of Charles Franklin and Susan (Tanner) Carter. The present Mr. Busey's birth occurred—in that Urbana house—on November 15, 1915.

He was educated in Urbana's public schools through junior high school, then at Lake Forest Academy, after which he went to the University of Illinois and the University of Chicago. At college he was elected to Phi Delta Theta, the social fraternity.

In 1937 Mr. Busey organized and became president and treasurer of the Champaign County Finance Corporation, which in 1942 changed its name to Automobile Banking Corporation. In the same year Mr. Busey also formed Urbana Motors, Hudson dealers in Champaign County. He was proprietor of this firm, which he sold in 1948. Another business he launched in 1937 was the C. B. Busey Insurance Agency, of which he is still sole proprietor; this organization sells all types of stock company insurance. He is also president and treasurer of the Charles Busey Corporation, an investment firm, which he likewise organized. His farm and real estate interests, located near Urbana, were inherited and purchased.

On June 30, 1937,—an eventful year for him—Mr. Busey married Jane Brabant Engel in Wilmette, Illinois. Mrs. Busey's parents were Rudolph Peter Engel, treasurer of the National Engraving Company of Chicago, and Jennie (Brabant) Engel. Mrs. Busey was educated in the Wilmette public schools and at the University of Illinois. She was president of the Pan-Hellenic Council, was on the staff of the Daily Illini and was a member of Alpha Phi Sorority at college. She has since been president of the Fortnightly Club of Urbana and also active in the Urbana Women's Club. Three children have been born to the Buseys—Kingleigh Michael, on December 17, 1942; Sandra Louise, on October 20, 1944, and Jeffrey Rudolph Engel Busey, on April 25, 1946.

In his welfare activities Mr. Busey has become treasurer and registered agent for the

Frances Nelson Home for Children, Inc., and he has participated in the boys' work programs of the Optimist Club of Champaign-Urbana, of which he was president in the charter year. He is also a member of Urbana Lodge, No. 157, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Urbana Chapter, No. 80, Royal Arch Masons; Urbana Council, No. 19, Royal and Select Masons, and Urbana Commandery, No. 16, Knights Templar. His favorite games are golf and basketball. He is an independent Democrat and worships at Emanuel Memorial Episcopal Church in Champaign. His fellow citizens in the Champaign-Urbana area recognize in him one of their most ardent community builders.

FRANKLYN C. NELCH

Says the national trade journal "Concrete" in one of its leading articles: "In the office of the ready mixed plant of Henry Nelch and Son, Springfield, hangs the following sign: 'A contract is a contract.' This sign is not just another slogan. It is there because the Nelch people have been and still are in the business of furnishing ready mixed concrete to the Springfield area for keeps. Its owners believe that 'a contract is a contract' and when Nelch undertakes to furnish its product—be it a million-dollar bank or a small sidewalk—the user knows that what he is getting is what he has contracted to pay for—high quality ready mixed concrete at not too high a premium price." The president of this large building material firm with so extraordinary a national reputation is Franklyn C. Nelch, who is also the vice-president of the Sangamo Construction Company and is one of the capital's civic leaders.

Franklyn C. Nelch was born at Wagner, near Springfield, on February 13, 1900, the son of the late B. F. Nelch. It was the father who was the "son" in the company name, for the present president's grandfather was Henry Nelch. Another member of the family closely identified with the firm was the late H. E. (Bud) Nelch, president of the company until his death. Franklyn Nelch was educated in Springfield's public schools and business college. He has been in the contracting business all his working life, and has specialized in highway and road construction. The firm he has headed since 1947, when his brother died, Henry Nelch and Son, is one of the largest building material firms in its field in Downstate Illinois. The road contracting firm, Sangamo Construction Company, is likewise one of the largest and best known. Henry Nelch

and Son pioneered the distribution of building materials in the Springfield area. It started in the sand and gravel business in the 1890's and its founder, Henry Nelch, died in 1919. When ready mixed concrete was in its infancy, the company put up its first plant, located at 800 South Ninth Street, Springfield. This was in 1929, when not too much was known about designed mixes and controlled operations. A new plant, with all the most modern features, was erected in 1945. The company has a large fleet of trucks which, painted white and carrying the firm name in large print, constitute an attractive form of advertisement. The Nelch name has been conveyed by this and other means throughout the state.

Franklyn C. Nelch married Martha Helen Walworth in 1923. They have one son, Franklyn C. Nelch, Jr., who was born in 1931. The family worships in the Congregational Church. A prominent Shriner, Mr. Nelch also belongs to other Masonic bodies, including the Jesters. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of Springfield; the Sangamo Club; and the Springfield Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. As indicated in the trade journal article and supported by the testimony of Springfield's newspapers and numerous individuals and firms, the Nelch name has become synonymous with integrity in the business and construction world.

SHIELDS ADAMS BLAINE

All his long life—he celebrated his eighty-fourth birthday in 1949—Shields Adams Blaine has served his fellow citizens as a farmer, banker and real estate and insurance man. Not only has he been a banker in Illinois but also a bank examiner. At Champaign, where he has spent most of his life, he has been an Alderman and twice Mayor of the city. Since late in 1932 he has been associated with his cousin, Boyd Scott Blaine, in the real estate, loan and insurance business, with offices in the First National Bank Building, Champaign.

Mr. Blaine was born in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, on March 20, 1865, the third of four children, and was still an infant when in September, 1865, his father, Edward Wiggins Blaine, also a native of Pennsylvania's Armstrong County, moved the family to Illinois, settling in Champaign County. The elder Mr. Blaine became a farmer, achieving considerable prominence, in the county. He died in 1914. Shields Blaine's mother, Nancy (Adams) Blaine, who was also a native of



FRANKLYN C. NELCH

Armstrong County, died of an illness in 1870, only five years after her arrival in Illinois.

After attending the rural schools of Champaign County, Shields Adams Blaine went to the McKee and Cobb Business College in Champaign. However, he continued to work on his father's farm until he was twenty-two years old. Today he owns this farm, and all the activities connected with operating it constitute his hobby. He breeds Guernsey cattle and spotted Poland China hogs.

In 1887 he took a position with the Champaign National Bank. This was the humble one of bank runner. Later he went to work for the First National Bank of Champaign, as a teller. He remained with this institution for thirteen years, after which he was cashier of the Illinois Title and Trust Company of Champaign. He was with this organization for six years, and then became a bank examiner in Cook County, where he covered all the State banks in the Chicago area.

In 1903 Mr. Blaine was elected alderman of Champaign for one term. Then elected mayor in 1905 and succeeded himself in 1907. In 1911, he became associated with the Citizens State Bank, of which he was assistant cashier and trust officer. And on December 1, 1932, after having served the Citizens Bank for eighteen years, he went into the real estate, loan and insurance business in association with his cousin, Mr. Boyd Scott Blaine. This is the business which, together with his farm, occupies his interest now.

Mr. Blaine married Elizabeth Temperance Fairclo in Champaign on August 5, 1902. Mrs. Blaine passed away June 19th, 1949. They had two daughters—Helen Louise, a graduate of the University of Illinois, now married to Robert E. Cady and living in Fort Worth, Texas, and the mother of Burton Blaine Cady, born in Grand Rapids, Mich., on June 1st, 1938; and Marion Elizabeth, now the wife of Leonard S. Daum of Chicago. Mrs. Daum, also a graduate of the University of Illinois, is the mother of Nancy Louise, born in Chicago, July 27, 1937. Mr. Shields A. Blaine resides at 310 West Hill Street, Champaign, and worships in the First Presbyterian Church of that city. Mr. Blaine, a member of the church since 1885, has sung in its choir for years.

Mr. Blaine is a member of the Champaign Lodge, No. 398, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and for many years has been an outstanding figure in the civic life of the entire area.

HON. WILLIAM WATSON LUCAS

The Edgar County National Bank of Paris is credited with having provided much of the stimulation behind the extraordinary growth and development of Edgar County, especially in the present century. Since 1934, the guiding spirit behind the bank has been William Watson Lucas, now its president. Mr. Lucas, a former State Bank Examiner of Illinois, has for years been an outstanding figure in the State's financial circles. He has always participated in major civic programs.

He was born at Freedom, Indiana, on June 15, 1896, the son of Thomas H. and Arrena V. (Day) Lucas. His father, a farmer, was born at Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. On completing his education, which he obtained in the elementary and high schools of Illinois, William Lucas became a rural school teacher, a post he held through four terms. For twenty-three months he was a rural mail carrier. On April 1, 1920, he became assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Hume, in Edgar County, and remained until March 15, 1930, except for part of the years 1927 and 1926, when he was employed as station auditor and assistant division manager for the Johnson Oil Refining Company. At the time he left the Hume bank, he was its cashier. He went from there to the post of Assistant State Bank Examiner and was later promoted to Examiner. He was with the State from March 15, 1930, to October 15, 1934. The latter date marks the beginning of his association with the Edgar County National Bank in Paris. At first he was executive vice-president, but since January, 1941, he has been president. The bank was organized in April, 1873, and has successfully served Edgar County for all the four score years since. The first president, F. W. Levings, served only a short time. He was succeeded by Robert N. Parrish, who served until his death on January 18, 1889. After his death, his son, Edward C. Parrish, was elected president and continued in that capacity until he died on January 16, 1897. His son, Robert N. Parrish II, then served in the presidency until his own death on December 8, 1940. The Parrish family through three generations headed the bank for about sixty-six years. Mr. Lucas has also made a record for leadership. The bank today has resources in excess of \$8,000,000. He has guided a remodeling program, completed about March 1, 1950, enabling the bank to give better and more efficient service.

Mr. Lucas married Mary Etta Fonner, daughter of Robert and Tilda Helen (McNutt) Fonner, in Paris on August 9, 1916. They have three children—Byron H. Lucas, who married Emma Lou Conover and is the father of William Samuel Lucas; Herbert E. Lucas who married Betty Jean Saiter and is the father of Cynthia Ann Lucas; and Norma Jean, now Mrs. Harold B. Luttrell and the mother of Sherry Kay Luttrell. Mr. and Mrs. William W. Lucas reside at 223 East Madison Street, Paris, and worship in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Aside from serving as State Bank Examiner, Mr. Lucas has held one other public office—that of township clerk in Young America Township, Edgar County. This post was his for two terms. He was chairman of Group 7, Illinois Bankers Association, for two years and was chairman of the first War Loan drive in Edgar County in World War II. He is past master of Paris Lodge, No. 268, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and, holder of the thirty-second Masonic degree, is also a Noble of the Shrine. He is past president but still influential in the Paris Chamber of Commerce. He also belongs to the Paris Lodge, No. 812, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Bowling, hunting and fishing are his sports. Mr. Lucas' services to the community are recognized as of outstanding value in its past and future development.

GEORGE WORTH WILSON

Launched in 1935, the Wilson Company of Mattoon has become one of the most successful establishments in the sheet metal field in downstate Illinois. Partner in the original firm, which was called the Wilson Roofing Company, George Worth Wilson—better known as G. Worth Wilson, or simply as Worth Wilson—is sole owner of the present business. He is a man who in World War II closed down his civilian operations and went into the nation's all-out war construction program. He is a leader in church and health programs in the community and also active in civic and fraternal work.

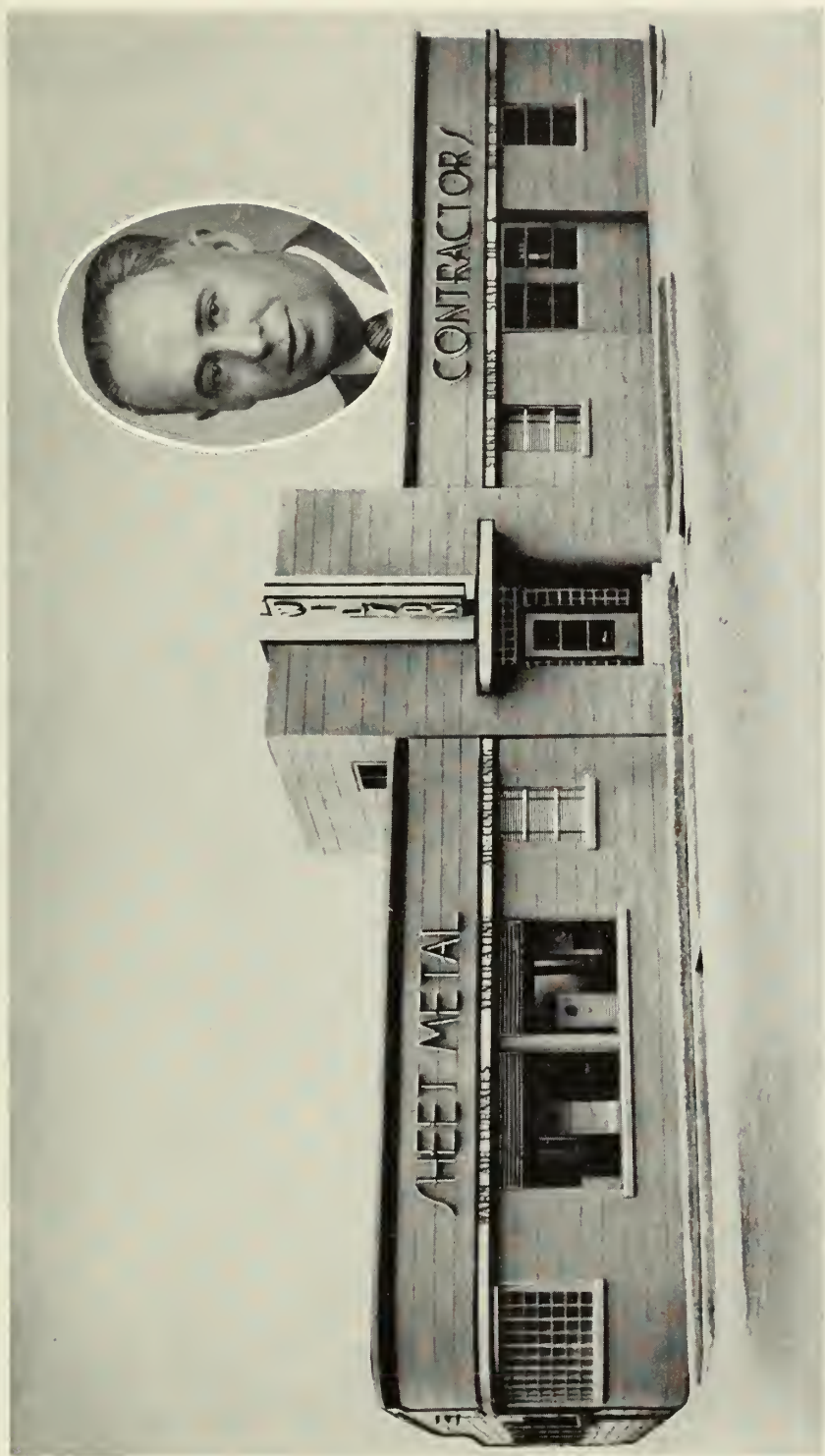
Mr. Wilson was born on August 10, 1900, on a farm near Etna, Coles County, the son of Nicholas P. and Luella (Moberly) Wilson. His father, a farmer and stockman, was the son of George W. and Sarah (Floyd) Wilson, natives of Maryland and early pioneers in Coles County. His mother's parents were William and Martha (Martin) Moberly, natives of Kentucky. Worth Wilson was educated in

schools at Etna, at Eastern State College in Charleston and at the Gem City Commercial College, Quincy, Illinois.

Mr. Wilson left the farm in the spring of 1922 and established residence in Mattoon. There he became associated with the Industrial Roofing Contractors. From outside workman he advanced to bookkeeper, office manager, estimator-salesman and to general manager. In 1927 he moved to Champaign as manager of a branch office and shop. Three years later he became manager of the Toronto, Canada, office of the Hyatt Roofing Company of Windsor, Ontario. The nation was well into depression when Mr. Wilson returned to the States in 1932. Hence it was not until 1935 that, in partnership with Everett F. Kent, he could organize the Wilson Roofing Company in Mattoon. Here the partners built up a good local business in sheet metal work, roofing and warm air heating. They did roofing and sheet metal work for schools, churches, industrial and State and Federal structures. Operations were usually within a two-hundred-mile radius, but from 1939 to 1943 they did a considerable amount of Government work, installing warm-air heating in Army camps such as Chanute Field, Fort Leonard Wood, Camp Crowder and Camp Hood.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Kent terminated their partnership in 1943, and Mr. Wilson then became sole owner of the business. However, the effects of the war on local conditions caused him to close up shop and office for about a year. In that period Mr. Wilson was employed by the Kaiser Shipbuilding Corporation at Vancouver, Washington. When he returned to Mattoon in September, 1943, he reopened the business as the Wilson Company and in a few months had all his former employees back on the job. The business has grown considerably since then and continues growing.

Mr. Wilson married Leonore Phillips, daughter of James H. and Mary Ann Phillips, natives of Hardin County, Kentucky, at Louisville, Illinois, August 23, 1925. Mrs. Wilson owned and operated the first exclusive infants' wear shop in Mattoon, 1926-7. She is active in church circles, in the Red Cross, the Mattoon Women's Reading Club and the Mattoon Art Club, and in the war period was active in the U.S.O. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson live at 1704 Marshall Avenue, Mattoon, and their church is the Presbyterian. Mr. Wilson has been a trustee of the church for many years.



Plant and office of The Wilson Company and its owner, Mr. George Worth Wilson

Mr. Wilson is also a former member of the board of the Memorial Methodist Church, serving as president in 1947-8. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, and holds the thirty-second degree in the Scottish Rite. He is a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Mattoon and has a record for continuous attendance. He is also a member of the Mattoon Historical Society. Travel and photography are his hobbies. He is one of Mattoon's popular citizens.

POCKLINGTON BROTHERS

After establishing their fame as breeders of dairy cattle, the Pocklington Brothers of the Town of Nilwood, in Macoupin County, have gone on to greater fame as growers and distributors of hybrid seed corn. Their activities are conducted in close association with the University of Illinois and the Farm Bureau. There are six brothers in the business—Charles, Walter, Albert, Elmer, Irvin and Evan.

The father of these six men was the late Frank W. Pocklington and the mother is Emma Pocklington. The father, who did general farming, owned 700 acres. He died in 1933. There is another son in the family, Truman James Pocklington (q.v.), who, in association with his father-in-law, Alfred G. Schoeneman, operates a dairy farm at Shipman, Macoupin County. Also, there are three daughters—Clara, who is unmarried; Emma, who is the wife of Edwin Leach and the mother of one child, and Olive, the wife of John Bates and the mother of three children.

In the latter years of Frank W. Pocklington's life he and all his sons did general farming and raised hogs and feeder cattle. In 1940, Truman Pocklington, after marrying Allene Schoeneman, left the family enterprise to go into business with Mr. Schoeneman. After the father's death, the family switched to dairy cattle at Nilwood and had a herd of twenty-five, averaging 487 pounds of butter fat. Also, they maintained breeding stock. In 1935, the six brothers started in the seed corn business and in the early 1940's began the major part of their present-day business. They started with only one acre in hybrid seed corn and the following year expanded to five acres. They sold their crop to neighbors and gradually built up their cultivation to 400 acres. Now they average 15,000 bushels of the hybrid seed corn a year. Also, they handle certified seed products, including oats and soy beans, in association with the University of Illinois and the Farm Bureau. They

have about one hundred farmer sub-dealers, and now farm 807 acres. The firm belongs to the Illinois Independent Seed Producers Association. Elmer Pocklington, acting as secretary of the business, maintains the books on the seed corn sales, while Albert, Irvin and Evan Pocklington are in charge of sales.

Charles Pocklington, the senior in the business, married Helda Bates. Walter, second oldest of the brothers, married Grace Clark and has four children. Albert Pocklington married Frances Calhoun and has two children. Elmer Pocklington married Marjory Denby. Irvin Pocklington married Lucille Denby and has two children. He was a First Lieutenant in the United States Infantry in World War II. Evan Pocklington married Helen Marko and has two children. He was with the United States Army Air Forces in World War II. All the brothers are well known throughout the United States for the high quality of their hybrid seed corn and for their leadership in this field.

GEORGE ALFRED WRISLEY

The reputation of George Alfred Wrisley of Chicago as a business leader is nationwide. Associated with various companies, he is vice president, general manager and member of the board of directors of the Allen B. Wrisley Company, with headquarters at 6801 West 65th Street, Chicago.

Chicago is Mr. Wrisley's native city. Born on September 18, 1895, he is the son of J. Burr and Edith L. (Pease) Wrisley. In 1916, he took the degree of Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering at the University of Illinois, and in the same year began his affiliation with the Allen B. Wrisley Company. In 1922 he was elected to the board of directors and in 1927 he was made vice president and general manager. He is also on the boards of the State Bank of Clearing and the Newridge Chemical Company.

On May 12, 1918, in Chicago, Mr. Wrisley married Blanche Michael. They are the parents of three sons—George A. Wrisley, David Burr Wrisley and Allen B. Wrisley, III. The Wrisley home is at 346 South Seventh Avenue, La Grange.

Mr. Wrisley has given much time to the developments in the field of education and also to public service, especially in wartime. He is a member of the boards of trustees of McCormick Theological Seminary and of Ripon College at Ripon, Wisconsin. In World War I, he served with the rank of Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve Force. In

the World War II period, he was with the War Production Board, active in the soap and glycerine unit; he did much to speed vital war production. He is a member of the American Legion, the Union League Club and the LaGrange Country Club. Mr. Wrisley is known for the progressive work he has done in promoting newer and more efficient methods of production in his field and in gaining their acceptance by the industry.

HERBERT DWIGHT SHORT

The "department store of good insurance" is a popular designation at Champaign for the insurance firm known as the Herbert D. Short and Son Agency, headquartered at 207 West Clark Street. Founded in 1933 by Herbert Dwight Short and now operated by him and his son Rodney, the agency is one of the largest enterprises in its field in Champaign County. Its founder, who is known throughout the insurance world, is an outstanding citizen who has taken leadership in numerous civic programs and who is known for the soundness of the advice he has given business men of his community.

Mr. Short was born at Coffeen, Montgomery County, on November 30, 1900, the son of Hiram Edgar Short, a native of Fillmore and a grocery merchant until his death, and Mary Ellen (Mathewson) Short, a native of Greenville in Bond County. The late General Walter Short of Pearl Harbor fame, a graduate of West Point and the University of Illinois, was the first cousin of Hiram Edgar Short, father of Herbert D. Short. Herbert D. Short was educated in the public schools of Coffeen and the preparatory school of Greenville College. He was a reporter on the college paper and held office in the senior class. In his early years Mr. Short worked with his father in the grocery store at Coffeen. From 1922 to 1933 he was that community's Postmaster. In between, briefly—in 1921—he was employed by the Denver Post, circulation department, at Denver, Colorado. He began his insurance career at Champaign in July, 1933, when he was appointed general agent for the Federal Reserve Life Insurance Company, a post he resigned in June, 1935.

At that time Mr. Short established his own general agency. He has been General Agent for the North American Accident Insurance Company since then. In 1948, Mr. Short and his staff of eight—including his son, then assistant manager—celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of "Champaign's Department Store of Insurance." In November, 1949,

the agency moved into a building purchased and remodeled by Mr. Short, and the name was changed to its present Herbert D. Short and Son Agency, Rodney K. Short having become a member of the firm. Mr. Short's insurance coverages embrace the fields of fire, casualty and auto, aircraft and life, accident, health and hospitalization insurance; also bonds.

Mr. Short first married Susie Larue Kelly, foster daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly of Irving. She died in February, 1939. On June 16, 1940, he married May Irene Steele, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mont Steele of Havana, Illinois. The son is Mr. Short's oldest child. He married Norma Jane Dodds and is the father of Timothy and Kimberlin Short. He is a veteran of World War II. There are also two daughters—Constance Ruth, now Mrs. Kenneth Knox and mother of Carolyn Sue and Scott Knox; and Mary Patricia, now Mrs. Paul Jay and mother of Gregory Jay. Mr. Short's home is at 807 West Church Street, Champaign. He also has a summer home at Baldwin Beach, Quiver Lake, Havana.

Mr. Short helped organize the Champaign County Chapter of War Dads and was secretary in 1945, as well as a member of the Illinois State Committee. In 1948, he was co-chairman of the Champaign County Cancer Fund campaign and for several years he was a committee chairman in the drives of the Champaign County Community Chest. He participates in numerous other fund-raising drives. Among the organizations to which Mr. Short belongs are the Champaign Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; Champaign Chamber of Commerce; Urbana Association of Commerce; Life Underwriters Association; Campus Business Men's Association; Champaign-Urbana Insurance Agents' Association, and the Urbana Golf and Country Club. He and his family worship at the First Methodist Church of Champaign. It has been said of him: "He has a likeable personality, a friendly disposition, and is capable of making true friends wherever he goes—a man with a kind and generous heart, popular among rich and poor."

HONORABLE GLEN WILLIAM BRADEN

Moultrie County, with its population of about 15,000, has made considerable progress in crime prevention and law enforcement under the leadership of its progressive Sheriff, Glen William Braden. From his head-



HERBERT DWIGHT SHORT

quarters at the county seat, Sullivan, Sheriff Braden has directed a crime control program distinguished by the most modern methods. He is a veteran of the Sullivan Police Force and of amphibious landings in the Pacific in World War II.

Sheriff Braden was born at Harrisburg, seat of Saline County, on October 12, 1913, the son of Silas O. Braden, also a native of that city, and a salesman, and of Olive (Bishop) Braden, born in that county the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Bishop. The future Sheriff completed his public school education in the high school at Pontiac, Michigan. He received special training for his career as a peace officer at the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Washington, D. C.

From 1929 to 1939 Sheriff Braden worked for the Brown Shoe Company at Sullivan, Illinois. He left this job to join the Sullivan police department, with which he remained until in 1943 when he went into the Navy for his World War II service. Following his enlistment and basic training, Sheriff Braden was attached to the Seventh Amphibious Forces. He participated in the initial landings at Palawan and Cebu, Philippine Islands, and at Borneo by way of Brunei Bay. He was awarded the American Area Campaign Ribbon, the Asiatic, Pacific, Philippine Liberation and World War II Victory Medals. His separation from the service occurred on January 3, 1946. He returned to Sullivan and in November, 1946, was elected Sheriff of Moultrie County for a four-year term, and he has since distinguished himself as the head of the county's law enforcement program.

Sheriff Braden married Ruth Bass, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alva Bass, at Shelbyville on April 25, 1934. They have two children—Jacqueline Ann Braden, who was born in 1935, and Gary Michael Braden, who was born in 1941. The family lives at 14 North Hamilton Street, Sullivan, and worships in the Christian Church.

The Sheriff is prominent in the Illinois Sheriffs Association, the Young Democrats of Illinois, the F. B. I. National Academy Graduates, the Illinois Veterans' League, the National Association of County Officials, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Sullivan Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion and the Sullivan Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. His favorite recreations are baseball and hunting. Moultrie County looks to him for leadership in further development of

the county and to making it the kind of area in which industry, commerce and culture will flourish.

ROY McGUIRE HAMILTON

A noted industrialist, Roy McGuire Hamilton of Decatur is also known for his association with the James Millikin interests. An alumnus himself of James Millikin University in Decatur, Mr. Hamilton is associated with the university as a trustee and chairman of the board of managers, with the James Millikin Estate as a trustee and with the Millikin National Bank and Millikin Trust Company in Decatur as a director.

Mr. Hamilton was born in Harristown, Illinois, on February 10, 1888, the son of Richard Mentor Hamilton and Mary Eleanor (McGuire) Hamilton. His father, who was born near Lexington, Kentucky, in 1840, was a farmer who served in the Union Army with the rank of Captain and afterward was a leading figure in the Grand Army of the Republic. Roy Hamilton received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce and Finance from James Millikin University in 1910. At the university he played football and baseball and went out for track and was elected to Sigma Alpha Epsilon, the social fraternity.

In 1911 and 1912 Mr. Hamilton was assistant can goods buyer for Oakford and Fahnestock, wholesale grocery concern of Peoria. From 1912 to 1919 he was a rancher at Twin Falls, Idaho. Since 1919 he has been associated with the Union Iron works and the Beall Improvement Company at Decatur. At present, he is vice president and general manager of the Union Iron Works.

On February 6, 1916, at Decatur, Mr. Hamilton married Alice Natalie Dempsey, the daughter of Henry Clay and Jane (Hawks) Dempsey. Also well known in civic and social circles, Mrs. Hamilton is president of the Millikin Dames. She is active in the First Presbyterian Church of Decatur, in which Mr. Hamilton is an elder. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are the parents of two daughters—Katherine Louise, who is now the wife of J. Ira Young and the mother of James Hamilton Young and Alice Louise Young; and Janet Isabelle, now the wife of Robert P. Jett and the mother of Mary Frances Jett and David Hamilton Jett. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton reside at 531 Crea Street, Decatur.

Besides his service on the boards of directors of the Millikin National Bank and Millikin Trust Company, and on the boards of trustees and managers of James Millikin Uni-

versity and as a trustee of the Millikin estate, Mr. Hamilton is active in civic affairs and in the Masonic fraternity. He is a Republican in his political belief, while gardening is his hobby and golf is his favorite sport. He has given Decatur and the university aggressive and able direction in their joint progressive growth.

HONORABLE ALOIS M. FELDMAN

For more than a score of years the Honorable Alois M. Feldman has served his native Lincoln as City Councilman and Mayor, and for all the period of his adult life he has given service in other capacities. In addition to now serving in the city's chief office, Mayor Feldman operates the Feldman Printing and Supply Company in the Logan County seat.

Mayor Feldman was born in Lincoln on August 15, 1884, the son of Bernard and Elizabeth (Boeger) Feldman. His father, also an Illinoisan by birth, spent most of his life as a hotel manager. He was well known throughout the state. The future Mayor went through grade school in Lincoln until he reached the age of fourteen. Then he became an apprentice, or printer's devil, in the employ of the Paul F. Mueller Printing Shop in Lincoln. In 1915 Mr. Feldman opened his own printing shop in that city, and this business, called the Feldman Printing and Supply Company, he has continued to operate since that time. He does a general commercial printing operation and also sells a full line of office supplies and stationery.

In 1906 Mr. Feldman married Mary Hasenstab, also a native of Lincoln. They have two children—Carl A. Feldman, who married Helen Simon and is the father of Robert J. and Ruth Ann Feldman; and Elizabeth, now the wife of John Coogan and the mother of Mary Catherine and Stephen Michael Coogan.

Mr. Feldman began serving on the Lincoln City Council in the late 1920's. In 1949, he was a successful candidate for Mayor of the city, and since then he has given his fellow citizens a most progressive and enlightened administration, instituting many civic improvements. He is active in the Rotary Club of Lincoln, in the Lincoln Lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose and the Logan County Council, Knights of Columbus. Landscaping and gardening are his hobbies. That he has won the confidence and love of his constituents is apparent to everyone.

LEONARD SAMUEL MILLER

Miller and Son Motor Company, dealers in Dodge and Plymouth passenger cars and Dodge trucks, is one of the outstanding concerns not only in its field but in any field in the Mattoon area. Founded by James Samuel Miller in 1909, when he launched a livery business in Mattoon, the firm is today managed by his son, Leonard Samuel Miller, an individual who has ranked high among the citizens of his community for years. Mr. Miller is not only a former City Commissioner but also a former president of various major civic organizations. He is known also for the support he has given high school athletics.

Leonard Samuel Miller was born in Mattoon on February 22, 1911. The story of the life and career of his father, James Samuel Miller, also a native of Coles County and still active in the automobile business and Mattoon's civic life, is told elsewhere in this Illinois edition of the Library of American Lives. Leonard Miller's mother is the former Bess Hilligoss, daughter of George and Kate Hilligoss.

Mr. Miller is a graduate of the grade schools of Mattoon and the Mattoon High School. He attended DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, for one year. When he was sixteen and still in high school, Leonard Miller began selling automobiles for his father, then the owner of the Ford agency in Mattoon. For three years, too, Mr. Miller was the agent in Mattoon for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company. In 1933, when his father took over the Dodge and Plymouth agency and distributorship, he joined him in business, and since then the firm has been known as Miller and Son Motor Company. The son is not only an equal partner but the manager of the enterprise.

Leonard Samuel Miller and Martha C. Spitz, daughter of Frank X. and Clara Spitz, were married in Mattoon on June 10, 1937. For ten years previous to her marriage Mrs. Miller was a teacher in the Mattoon public school system. Since her marriage she has been active as a leader in the Girl Scout movement and in other civic and social programs as well as in the Mattoon Country Club and various other organizations. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two daughters, Mary Linda and Martha Ann. The Miller home is at 809 Charleston Avenue, Mattoon.

Mr. Miller, active in all phases of civic life, was president of the Kiwanis Club of Mattoon in 1938. He had previously been a mem-



HONORABLE ALOIS M. FELDMAN

ber of the club's board of directors for a year. He was president of the Mattoon Country Club in 1949. For one year he was vice president and for two years was a member of the board of directors of the Mattoon Association of Commerce. In 1948 he was vice president of the Mattoon Athletic Association. He is also a member of the Mattoon Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Miller is not only an ardent supporter but an equally enthusiastic follower of the football and baseball teams of the Mattoon High School. He also enjoys golf, hunting and fishing. He is a Republican. His influence has stimulated Mattoon and the surrounding area to growth and prosperity.

JAMES SAMUEL MILLER

There was a time when James Samuel Miller of Mattoon was a dealer in that city for the Oakland automobile so early in the history of that vehicle was he active in the business. Today Mr. Miller handles Dodge automobiles and trucks and Plymouth automobiles. One of the outstanding personalities in Mattoon's commercial life, he is a former president of the Mattoon Association of Commerce. His son, Leonard Samuel Miller, is associated in business with him.

Born in Coles County, not far from Mattoon, on October 7, 1881, James Samuel Miller is the son of William and Matilda Catherine (Ellison) Miller. His father, a native of Indiana, was a farmer in Coles County. A farmer most of his early life, James Samuel Miller remained for a time on the farm with his father after completing his education, which he obtained in the Coles County grade schools. In 1909, Mr. Miller left the farm to go into a business which was, only a few years later, to lead him into the automobile business. That earlier enterprise was a livery stable which he established in Mattoon. In 1913, he gave up the livery business to become dealer for the Oakland automobile in Mattoon and the surrounding territories. Soon afterward in the same year he also took over the dealership for the National, Lexington, Hupmobile and Cadillac cars, and this group, together with the Oakland, he handled until 1925. In that latter year he assumed the agency for Ford cars and trucks in Mattoon territory. Since 1933, however, he has had the agency and distributorship in the Mattoon area for Dodge passenger cars, Dodge trucks and Plymouth passenger cars. In the years he has built up his business Mr. Miller has become a popular figure in Mattoon.

On December 31, 1906, Mr. Miller married Bess Hilligoss, the daughter of George and Kate Hilligoss, the ceremony being performed in Mattoon. She is active in the First Methodist Church of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two sons—Leonard Samuel, who married Martha C. Miller and is the father of Mary Linda and Martha Ann Miller, and who is the subject of a separate biography in this Illinois Edition of the Library of American Lives; and Egbert Eugene, who married Elizabeth Irwin of Charleston, Illinois.

James Samuel Miller not only served one term on the board of directors of the Mattoon Association of Commerce but one term as director of that civic organization. He continues influential in the association. He is a former member of the Rotary Club of Mattoon; and is active in the Mattoon Lodge, Benevolent and Protective order of Elks, and is a member of the Mattoon Country Club, to which he has belonged since its earliest days. He, too, worships at the First Methodist Church. One of Mr. Miller's major recreational interests has been upland game hunting, such as quail, rabbits, ducks, pheasants and geese. He has owned hundreds of very fine pointer and setter bird dogs. Always in the best of health, Mr. Miller has had the energy and the acumen to serve his city well.

JOHN LESTER BUFORD, LL.D.

The work Dr. John Lester Buford has done in Mount Vernon and in the State of Illinois toward improving the condition of education, raising the standards of personnel and pedagogy and aiding in the reorganization of the state's schools has made him a figure of importance in the entire pedagogical world. He has achieved this eminent position through his activities as superintendent of the elementary and junior high schools of Mount Vernon, as an officer in local, state and national educational organizations, as a member of the Governor's Committee for the reorganization of the State's Schools and as a leading figure in religious and civic activities.

Dr. Buford was born in Union County on February 25, 1898, the son of John Robert and Susan (Hartline) Buford, both also natives of that county. His father, a staunch Republican, was prominent as a farmer and church worker. The future educator received his own early education in the rural schools of Johnson County, then went to Cypress, to complete the eighth grade. At this point he received his first certificate to teach, and began his career in the rural schools. He

continued to teach and to go to school until his high school work was completed at Southern Illinois Normal University in Carbondale. Then in 1928 he took his degree of Bachelor of Arts at that institution, now known as Southern Illinois University, and in 1939, after considerable postgraduate work, he was awarded the degree of Master of Arts at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He was elementary principal at Carbondale and West Frankfort; superintendent at Galatia; high school principal at Eldorado and Johnston City, and has been elementary school superintendent in Mount Vernon since 1937.

In 1928 Dr. Buford married Dorothy Draper of Carbondale, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Draper. Her father was a teacher in the Carbondale High School for many years. Dr. and Mrs. Buford are the parents of three children—Richard H., born in 1929, a student (1950) at the University of Illinois; Barbara Jane, born in 1932, graduated from Mount Vernon High School now attending the University of Illinois, and John Philip, born in 1934, a sophomore (1950) at the high school. Mrs. Buford is active in church and social affairs and in study clubs. The family worships in the First Methodist Church of Mount Vernon. He is a Sunday School teacher and member of the church's official board. Also, he serves on the Board of Publications of the Methodist Church (National).

Dr. Buford's achievements as an educator brought him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, bestowed upon him by McKendree College at Lebanon. He has taken work toward a Doctor's degree in education at the University of Illinois. During his administration in Mount Vernon he has raised teaching personnel standards by obtaining pay increases running from the original \$840-1080 scale to the present \$2400-4200 scale, based on preparation and years of experience. Also, he was instrumental in floating a bond issue of \$2,500,000 for improvement of schools. The building program he set in motion assures good school structures for all Mount Vernon's children. He represents Illinois on the directorate of the National Education Association and was legislative chairman for the Southwestern Division of the Illinois Education Association. He is a past president of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce. In 1934 and 1936 he was Republican candidate for Congress in the old 25th district. One of the achievements of which Dr. Buford is especially proud is that he made

the elementary schools a part of the community. His work has won him the admiration of all Jefferson County.

OSCAR LEE TURNER

When Oscar Lee Turner of Harrisburg began his career, which was at the age of twelve, he earned one dollar a week. He has since overcome the handicaps of a limited education by becoming one of the leading business men of Southern Illinois and an influential and valuable public-spirited citizen. Mr. Turner may be regarded as a pioneer in the exhibition of motion pictures in his section of the State. Today he is the operator of theaters not only in Harrisburg but Eldorado and ten other Southern Illinois communities. He is also in the lumber business and in real estate, and has participated in all major community enterprises and events. His theater firm is Turner-Farrar Theaters, with headquarters in Harrisburg.

Mr. Turner was born in Saline County on March 29, 1887, the fourth of five children. His parents were Joseph B. Turner, a farmer, and Mary Ellen (Welch) Turner, the former a native of the same county, the latter of a Kentucky family. Oscar Turner went through the fourth grade in the public schools of Saline County. At twelve, and for a dollar a week, he drove a delivery wagon. His employer taught him bookkeeping and he remained with him until he was fifteen, when he received \$2.25 a week. He then ran errands for the men who built the electric power plant in Harrisburg, receiving \$3 a week and then became a lineman in which capacity he served three years climbing poles. Next, for \$15 a month, he trimmed carbon lamps, fired boilers and worked in an ice plant. In 1905 he went to work for the O'Gara Coal Company, as an engineer in the mines. When he left the mines, he went into business for himself, as an electrical contractor. One of his jobs was the wiring of the first motion picture theater in Harrisburg. This was in 1906. He installed the projection machines and learned how to operate them. He then went to Wisconsin and installed other machines. In 1908, he returned to Harrisburg to work for the light company, but at the same time became manager of a five-cent theater. In August, 1908, Mr. Turner bought the Star and Odeon Theaters in Harrisburg, paying \$1,000 for them. He paid \$50 down and \$50 a week. In 1910, he built the Orpheum Theater and in 1912



OSCAR LEE TURNER

the Colonial. At about this time Mr. Turner formed the Colonial Amusement Company, of which he was president. This firm established theaters at Eldorado and Mount Carmel. Upon his retirement from the company in 1914, he built the Grand Theater in Harrisburg, and this he operated until 1925, when he formed a partnership with the Colonial Amusement Company, with which he then operated until 1936. In that year the Turner-Farrar Theaters partnership was formed. It now operates in twelve Southern Illinois communities. Mr. Turner is also on the board of the Harrisburg Lumber Company.

On June 13, 1913, he married Ethel Dooly, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Dooly of Harrisburg. They had three children—Cuba, now Mrs. John Schonert; Bernice, deceased, and O. L. Turner, who is now associated with his father in the theater business. The family worships in the Baptist Church.

Mr. Turner served on the rationing board for Saline County in World War II. He is a member of the Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club of Harrisburg and various Masonic bodies, including the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and Ainad Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at East St. Louis. He is a Republican. His hobby is working in his modern home workshop. He has established himself among the foremost group of men working in the interest of Southern Illinois and its people.

WILLIAM H. LINN and WILLIAM R. SCRUGGS

Linn and Scruggs is an institution in Decatur which draws patronage from all areas of Illinois and which has a reputation of national proportions. Its founders, William Henry Linn and William Reaves Scruggs, have long been deceased, but through the great store which is their monument their memory lingers in the world as does their influence in the community and in the field of merchandising. Both were merchants of great stature, but Mr. Linn was the man who was noted for the business drive, while Mr. Scruggs was the man of personality through whose personal contact the buying public was attracted to the store. Today, as in the lifetime of the two founders, Linn and Scruggs serves the community with rare skill.

The elder of the two partners, William H. Linn, was born in Woodstock, Virginia, on

September 1, 1824, one of a large family of children born to Henry and Rebecca Linn of that city. William R. Scruggs was a native of the Old Dominion, having been born in Bedford County on February 15, 1828. His birth occurred on the plantation of his father, Reaves Richard Scruggs, an outstanding resident of the Colony and later the State of Virginia. He was a selectman and served on the King's Council for his area of the Colony. The older brother of William R. Scruggs was Richard Scruggs, one of the founders and operators of Scruggs, Vandervoort and Barney, the big department store of St. Louis, Missouri.

As a youth William H. Linn attended Piedmont Academy near Winchester, Virginia. Later he learned the dry goods business and was employed in New Orleans and St. Louis as well as in other parts of the country. He became the friend and associate of virtually every famous merchant prince of his time.

In 1860, Mr. Linn married Mary Ann Eaches of Virginia, the widow of Nathaniel Blackstone. The wedding took place in St. Louis. Mr. Scruggs was at this time successfully established as a merchant in Belleville, seat of Saint Clair County, Illinois, and here his son, William Walton Linn, was born in 1862.

Mr. Scruggs did not attend college, but received his education in what was known as an old field school. He worked on his father's plantation and in various fields of business. When the War Between the States broke out, he went into the Confederate Army and served until the end of the conflict. On his return to civilian life, he became a salesman for William I. Peak and Company in New York City and here he met William H. Linn, his future partner, the latter having been a frequent visitor in the metropolis, where he did the buying for his business.

Mr. Scruggs married Maimie Chadsey in New York City on March 27, 1867, and they became the parents of Sally Linn Scruggs, who was married to Benjamin Jenkins, and Reaves Richard Scruggs who married Bessie McCabe. Both families are childless.

It was Mr. Linn's decision to leave Belleville and establish himself at Decatur which brought the partners together. He was a business friend of Richard Scruggs' and had communicated to him his belief that mid-state Illinois offered greater opportunities for expansion than Belleville. Richard Scruggs agreed and suggested that his younger brother Linn and William Scruggs discussed the part-

ther William be made a partner of Mr. Linn's at Decatur. Mr. Linn and William Scruggs discussed the partnership several times and found they could work together harmoniously and profitably. In 1869, with Richard Scruggs the sponsor, the partnership of Linn and Scruggs was created. Mr. Linn moved his merchandise and family to Decatur and Mr. Scruggs moved his family from New York State to the Illinois community. The partnership was soon to prove a successful arrangement, for Mr. Scruggs' kind and courtly manner and his friendly approach and his sales ability, coupled with Mr. Linn's merchandising skill, established the business in the hearts of the public. Linn and Scruggs, as a concern to be ever afterward noted in the history of Macon County, opened its doors in Decatur on October 11, 1869. Mr. Linn did all the buying and made annual trips to New York for this purpose. On one occasion he went from Decatur to Indianapolis on horseback to catch his New York train. In New York Mr. Linn became a close friend of A. T. Stewart, head of the famed dry goods concern and department store which afterward became John Wanamaker's New York store. Their great bond was their love of hunting and of fine dogs and fine guns. Mr. Stewart kept urging Mr. Linn to open a New York bank account and even took Mr. Linn to meet the president of his own bank in Gotham. Mr. Linn felt that the Linn and Scruggs business was too small to warrant the expense of such an account, but with friendly courtesies the account was finally opened. Linn and Scruggs was the first firm in Illinois outside Chicago to have such an account. Acting on the bank's advice, the Decatur store made short-time loans to discount merchandise bills instead of taking the money out of the business. The first time this was done rumors got about that the firm had failed, and a run began on the local banks. This was quickly stopped, however, when the situation had been explained.

Shipping was always a problem and Mr. Linn constantly had it on his mind. Out of this fact arises a story which has kept his friends and relatives laughing for years, good naturedly of course, and which at the time brought laughter from Mr. Linn himself. One busy morning a man walked into the store to solicit Mr. Linn's interest in the Y.M.C.A. The stranger did not mention the organization by its full name but by its letters. Mr. Linn, his mind full of transportation problems, immediately thought the letters referred

to some new railroad. "You know," he said, "I don't think I've ever heard of that road. What is it?" The visitor began to explain, "It's the straight and narrow road—" But Mr. Linn interrupted with, "Excuse me, please, but we have no patronage for narrow gauges." So the laugh was on him, as he was quick to recognize.

Mr. Linn established, for the firm, a lasting reputation for high quality and fair dealing. He was forceful and aggressive, and was possessed of great tenacity of purpose. Several handbills of 1873, still extant, set forth the store's policy that "whatever the cost no one can undersell Linn and Scruggs." A local merchant once discovered Mr. Linn and Mr. Scruggs meant what they said. He cut the factory-set price for black Cheney Silk in a transaction with one of Linn and Scruggs' customers. He thereby launched a small price war, and for a time no one could sell silk at a profit. An appeal to the factory caused shipments of the fabric to Linn and Scruggs to be stopped. But Mr. Linn, through his relationship with Scruggs, Vandervoort and Barney in St. Louis, was able to obtain all the Cheney silk he needed and no one knew where it came from. The war soon ended, and everyone returned to profitable and fair practice. Extensive travel, aggravating Mr. Linn's poor health, finally put an end to his active management of the business. On July 16, 1890, Linn and Scruggs was incorporated, with Mr. Linn as president, but on August 4, 1892, he resigned this office and his son, W. W. Linn, became president. The son held that post until his death on October 24, 1904. William Henry Linn himself died in Decatur on June 19, 1900. A dominant figure in the community, Mr. Linn, with Mr. Scruggs and associates, organized the Decatur Club. Both partners were active in that organization until their deaths. Mr. Scruggs died on May 30, 1909. He was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church in Decatur for many years. Both men contributed much to the development of Decatur, Macon County and Central Illinois, and both were popular throughout their lives. The traditions they established in 1869 are being perpetuated in the contemporary operation of Linn and Scruggs and will go on and on through the years, so soundly were they formed.

CHARLES A. MUELLER

Associated with the City National Bank of Kankakee and its predecessors since 1911, Charles A. Mueller has been president of that



CHARLES A. MUELLER

strong and influential institution since 1947. His reputation as a banker has spread from Eastern Illinois into other sections of the state and other sections of the Middle West. Mr. Mueller is noted for his active interest and participation in the commercial and industrial development of Kankakee and Kankakee County and for his work with welfare and other civic programs.

Born in Kankakee on July 16, 1887, Mr. Mueller is the son of the late Henry and Freda Rita (Kruse) Mueller. His father was a native of Hoboken, New Jersey, his mother of Kankakee. The father began his career as a carpenter but was later a farmer. The banker is the second of six children, the others having been Minna, Ella, Frederick, Lillian and Harry Mueller. He was educated in the Kankakee elementary and high schools and the Kankakee Business College.

After two years as a bookkeeper for commercial concerns, Mr. Mueller entered the banking business. His first post was that of bookkeeper and teller in the savings department of the Kankakee County Trust and Savings Bank. This dual position he held until 1918, or seven years. At that time he was promoted to assistant cashier of the bank. Six years later, when the institution was renamed and rechartered as the City Trust and Savings Bank, he was made cashier. In 1940, the City Trust and Savings Bank was merged into the City National Bank and Mr. Mueller was elected executive vice-president, which was his title under the administration of Harlan M. Stone, who was president of the bank. When Harlan M. Stone died in 1947, Mr. Mueller was elected to succeed him as president, and he took office on June 30. Mr. Mueller has seen and had a hand in achieving a tremendous growth for the bank. The total resources of the community institution now exceed \$21,000,000, with deposits above \$18,000,000. The capital stock and surplus are \$350,000, the undivided profits stand at more than \$150,000 and the reserve accounts total \$132,000 or so. The officers, besides Mr. Mueller, include E. S. Hamilton, W. C. Babst and F. W. Swannell, vice-presidents; H. O. McCracken, cashier, and W. E. Stewig, E. E. Kramer and M. E. Throne, assistant cashiers.

Mr. Mueller married Ethel C. McNamee, also a native of Kankakee County and now active in women's circles. Mr. and Mrs. Mueller became the parents of a son, Charles W. Mueller, who was born on October 5, 1918. A graduate of Kankakee High School, the son

took his bachelor's degree at Knox College in 1941. Shortly afterward, in August, 1941, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces. At first he was in the finance department, then in Intelligence. Finally, he was made sergeant major. He served throughout World War II, with distinction. A few weeks before he was to be separated from the service, he lost his life in an accident. This was on September 30, 1945, a few days before his twenty-seventh birthday.

Charles A. Mueller has become known and respected for his work on behalf of boys and young men. He is active in the Boy Scout movement and is a director of the Kankakee Young Men's Christian Association. He further contributes to work for youth and general welfare activities through active participation in all Community Chest and Red Cross drives. He is a director of the Kankakee County Chapter of the American Red Cross. He also belongs to the Masonic fraternity, being a member of the Knights Templar and the Shrine, and is a past director of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Mueller's activities have benefitted the entire Eastern Illinois area.

JOHN EARL CLARKE

Member of a family which for four generations was in the medical profession, John Earl Clarke of Cairo early in life decided that he too would follow that profession. But though he went a long way toward study for the x-ray branch of the profession, circumstances forced him to seek elsewhere for a career. That he sought well, and found better, is evidenced by his success in the building supply business. He is the founder of the Builders' Supply Company of Cairo, a concern with a highly developed volume of sales and great prestige in Alexander County. Also, he is a civic leader who has, as private citizen and public official, promoted the cause of more and better housing in the county.

Mr. Clarke was born in Cairo on November 6, 1902, the son of W. C. and Jessie (Lincoln) Clarke, both also natives of Illinois. His father, a physician and surgeon who practiced in Cairo for many years, was at one time City Health Officer. He was of the fourth generation of the Clark family to hold the degree of Doctor of Medicine. His father, Dr. Fred Clarke, also born in Illinois, was both medical man and newspaper publisher in the northern part of the State.

John Earl Clarke received his education in the public schools of Cairo. He was graduated from high school in 1921. His first ambition was to be an x-ray specialist and in the semester of 1921-1922 studied at the Fischer X-Ray School in St. Louis. After this he attended college for two years, returning to Cairo in 1923. He intended to proceed with his plans for a career in roentgenology, but the death of his father in 1924 swerved him permanently from this path. From late 1923 to 1925 Mr. Clarke worked as a shipping clerk for a wholesale grocery firm in Cairo. Then he went to Spokane, Washington, where he was in the real estate business for two years. Late in 1927 he was back in Cairo once more, and there for the next twelve years he was manager of a lumber yard. In 1940, Mr. Clarke organized the Builders' Supply Company of Cairo and since then has operated at 1004-1006 Commercial Avenue, in that city. He handles a full line of building supplies, serving a radius of twenty miles of Cairo and employing seven persons.

In 1925 Mr. Clarke married Mary Langan of Cairo. The marriage was dissolved by divorce. Mr. Clarke has two children—Peter Langan Clarke, now employed in his father's building supply business, and Mary Langan Clarke, who is teaching at Keokuk, Iowa.

Mr. Clarke is active in the Illinois Lumber and Material Dealers Association and is a former vestryman of The Church of the Redeemer, Cairo Episcopalian congregation. He is chairman of the Alexander County Housing Authority and through this office has helped promote an improvement of Cairo's housing condition, which was seriously affected, as elsewhere, by the war. He is a member of the Cairo Association of Commerce and the Retail Merchants Association and the Cairo Camera Club, and is a former member of the Kiwanis Club of Cairo. Photography is his hobby. He has a modern photography laboratory in his place of business and also a processing plant for his private pictures. Fishing and hunting are other of his interests. In politics he is a Republican. Not only through housing but through many other important social and economic interests Mr. Clarke is contributing to the improvement and well-being of his community and region.

MAX E. DEEM

As far back as the grandfather of Max E. Deem, virtually all the men in the family began their careers as carpenters, and many of

them have also become builders and contractors. Following similar careers, Max E. Deem and his father have between them contributed in outstanding fashion to the development of large urban and agricultural areas of Illinois, chiefly in and around Tuscola, seat of Douglas County, and Pesotum, in Champaign County. Tuscola is the seat of Max E. Deem's present activities, for he operates there as Max Deem, Contractor and Builder, and as Deem's Paints and Builders Supplies. In his business operations Mr. Deem is assisted by his wife, the former Kate Sargent Wilmeth, who is his partner, and both are well known in the civic and rural life of their section of the State. They own a large improved farm west of Pesotum.

Max E. Deem was born at Pesotum on October 15, 1905, the son of Nelson M. and Lola (Atto) Deem. His father, born near Paris, Illinois, was the son of W. R. Deem, who served with the Union Army in the Civil War. After that war, W. R. Deem, a close friend of "Uncle Joe" Cannon, signed discharges in the national capital. The mother was born at Newman, Illinois. Max E. Deem was educated in the Pesotum grade and high schools, Champaign High School and Villa Grove High School at Villa Grove, Illinois.

W. R. Deem and all his sons were carpenters, and some were also contractors. Nelson M. Deem entered the contracting business for himself at Pesotum in 1903 and continued in that business until his death on May 25, 1948. Max, his son, began his career by helping his father and learning the carpenter's trade. He continued with Nelson Deem until 1937, and then moved to Tuscola. There he took the position of construction supervisor for the F. H. Jones Lumber Company and with this firm remained until January, 1947.

Back on December 16, 1945, he had married Kate Sargent Wilmeth, the daughter of Charles S. and Florence (Brannan) Wilmeth. The story of Mrs. Deem is told separately in this Illinois edition of the Library of American Lives. She has been a housewife as well as a business helpmeet to her husband, and she is now giving most of her time to their joint enterprises, handling all the bookkeeping and clerical work, the payrolls and office detail. Also helping in the business are Mr. Deem's children by a former marriage—Marilyn, born on December 6, 1930, and William Ray Deem, born on July 15, 1937. The son, who lives with Mr. and Mrs. Deem on Rural Route 2, Tuscola, attends Tuscola Community High School, and



MR. AND MRS. MAX E. DEEM

the family attends the Methodist Church in Tuscola.

When Max Deem left the Jones Company in 1948, he launched the business of Max Deem, Contractor and Builder. Then, on July 1, 1949, he and his wife opened their retail paint and builders' supply store at 76 South Main Street, Tuscola, and this they operate in conjunction with their contracting business. A major part of the residential sections of Pesotum and the farm improvements around that community were built by Mr. Deem and his father. And since establishing himself in Tuscola in 1937, Mr. Deem has built many homes and erected many farm improvements in and around that city, as well as such commercial buildings as his own, the W. H. Waltrip Implement Building, the Atwood Fire House and the F. H. Jones Lumber Company establishment. The Deem farm, lying one mile west of Pesotum and consisting of 120 acres, is operated by a tenant.

Mr. Deem is a member of the Kaskaskia Country Club at Arthur. He votes Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Deem are both hard workers and have built their business together to attain their great success. Both are popular in the community.

KATE SARGENT WILMETH DEEM

The career of Mrs. Kate Sargent Wilmeth Deem, while it has been centered all her life in her native Tuscola and Douglas County, has embraced a variety of experiences and brought her to a position not only of affluence but of influence in a wide area of the State. Once a legal stenographer and secretary, as well as court reporter, she is today the operator of a tax service in Tuscola, the owner of a farm just outside the city and a partner in the enterprises of her husband, Max E. Deem, builder and contractor and operator of retail paint and builders' supply store. In addition, she is a power in Democratic politics, not to mention her service on the "homefront" as a housewife.

Born Kate Sargent Wilmeth at Tuscola on June 15, 1919, Mrs. Deem is the daughter of Charles S. and Florence (Brannan) Wilmeth. Her father was born in 1892 in the house and on the farm now occupied by Mrs. Deem and her husband, and he was the son of Charles W. and Kate (Sargent) Wilmeth. He died in 1939. Sargent Township, in Douglas County, was named after his mother's people, who were first settlers in that section. Florence Brannan Wilmeth, a native of Coles County, was the daughter of Lewis and Elizabeth

Brannan. The future Mrs. Deem began her education in the South Ervin Grade School, located about a half mile from her present home. Later, she went to and was graduated from the Tuscola Community High School and the Champaign Commercial College, Champaign.

Mrs. Deem was employed as a legal stenographer in the office of Edwin F. Meister, Tuscola attorney, for ten years. For one year she was with the farm sales department of the Equitable Life Assurance Society in Champaign and for another year she was a secretary in the Animal Pathology and Hygiene Department of the University of Illinois at Urbana. She has also served as a court reporter for the Douglas County Court and the Master of Chancery Court, over the course of a decade, and operates her income tax service in Tuscola. Also, she manages the farm of one hundred twenty acres, located south of Tuscola on Rural Route 2. Mrs. Deem's grandmother, Kate Sargent Wilmeth, for whom she was named, purchased this land in 1883 before her marriage and before there was a system of drainage. Her husband, Charles W. Wilmeth, was employed on the dredge boat which came digging the drainage ditch through Miss Sargent's farm, and they were subsequently married. They lived on this farm until their deaths and their son, Mrs. Deem's father, was not only born there but lived there until his own death.

Kate Sargent Wilmeth (the second) and Max E. Deem were married in the Zion Church at Garrett, Illinois, on December 16, 1945, and since their marriage have also lived on the Sargent-Wilmeth farm. Mr. Deem's son by a former marriage, William Ray Deem, also makes his home on the farm.

When Mr. Deem entered the contracting business on his own in 1947, after working for years as a carpenter and as a contractor and builder in association with his father, Mrs. Deem joined him in the business as a partner. She has since devoted full time to it, handling all the office work and working in the retail store. She continues her income tax work and court reporting and handles all her own housework. Though this does not leave her much time for hobbies or recreations, she nevertheless finds time to serve as historian for the Mother's Circle of the Tuscola DeMolay Chapter and as committeewoman in the Democratic organization for Tuscola's third precinct. Also, she likes to play the piano and organ and to read. She worships at the Metho-

dist Church. Kind and sympathetic, always ready to help someone in need, Mrs. Deem is a popular citizen of Tuscola.

HON. LESTER OSBURNE SCHRIVER, LL.D.

An important insurance executive, the Honorable Lester Osburne Schriver is also well known as an outstanding speaker, a humorist-philosopher, a civic leader and author. He is a recognized authority on the life of Abraham Lincoln, on whom he has written numerous books and articles, and in 1939 received the diploma of honor from Lincoln Memorial University, granted annually to the individual making the most outstanding contribution to Lincolniana and in 1940 the same university conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. He is a former Congregational minister, a former public official and is at the present time one of the most active citizens in the educational, religious, inspirational and health and welfare fields. As insurance man, Dr. Schriver is general agent for the Aetna Life Insurance Company for seventy-seven Illinois counties, with headquarters at 301 South Jefferson Avenue, Peoria.

Dr. Schriver was born in Bristol, Connecticut, on March 7, 1891, the son of Milo Seeley and Fannie C. (Osburne) Schriver. His father, a native of Dutchess County, New York, and a farmer, died in 1941. His mother, who was born at Pauling, New York, survives.

Dr. Schriver, a graduate of Syracuse University, served in Congregational pulpits for ten years. He entered the insurance world as director of education for Aetna Life Insurance Company in Connecticut. Later he became superintendent of agencies and since 1929 he has been general agent at Peoria, supervising seventy-seven counties and employing one hundred and three persons.

Dr. Schriver married Blanche Larkin, daughter of James W. and Alice (Merritt) Larkin, at Brewerton, New York, on September 15, 1915. Mrs. Schriver, like her parents, is a native of Brewerton. Her father, who operated a general merchandising business there and was the postmaster, died in 1919, five years after the mother. Dr. and Mrs. Schriver are the parents of two children—Alice Caroline and Merritt Larkin Schriver.

When Dr. Schriver was still in Connecticut, he served in the legislature at Hartford and in the City Council of Middletown. He was

also president of the Middletown Chamber of Commerce. He is a former president, vice-president and secretary of the National Association of Life Underwriters, and he is at present a director of the Peoria Citizens' Forum, the Peoria Community Fund, the Peoria Young Men's Christian Association, the Peoria Visiting Nurse Association, the George Washington Carver Community Center, the Peoria Chapter of the American Cancer Society, the Greater Peoria Civic Association, the Peoria City Planning Commission, the Peoria Life Underwriters Association, President of the Peoria Advertising and Selling Club; is vice-president of the board of trustees of Lincoln Memorial University, a trustee of MacMurray College and Proctor Hospital, chairman of the Peoria Gridiron Committee and member of the Peoria City Council and the Peoria Slum Clearance Commission. From 1941 to 1946 he was Peoria County Chairman of the U. S. Treasury War Finance Committee, and was responsible for the selection of drive chairmen and their organizations for all eight war loan drives, in which more than \$170,000,000 of war bonds were sold in Peoria County. At the request of the Treasury, he traveled most of the country, speaking before war bond meetings and rallies. Described as a powerful, inspiring and stimulating speaker, Dr. Schriver has appeared on the public platform in every American state and every Canadian province. It has been said of him, "A tall stately individual, combining a magnetic personality with a brilliant sweep of intellect, he knows and likes people and people instinctively like him."

EDWARD PATRICK HARRINGTON

An outstanding citizen of Central Illinois is Edward Patrick Harrington of Deatur. Mr. Harrington is reknowned not only as a civic worker especially interested in church and youth programs but as a leader in the paper business. Boy's work brought him the Junior Association of Commerce achievement award.

A native of England, Mr. Harrington is the son of one of London's well known citizens, Thomas Edward Harrington, a retired printing machine company manager and a Freeman of the City of London. The father has been first tenor of the Putney Vale Church, at Kingston-on-Thames, since 1915. The Deatur leader's grandfather, Thomas Michael Harrington, was founder of printers' pension funds in England. Edward Harrington's



HON. LESTER OSBURNE SCHRIVER, LL.D.

mother is the former Isabelle Margaret Haydon. Mr. Harrington was educated at London County Council School, public school at Surrey, England, and through supplemental study. Until World War I, he was employed by wholesale meat importers at Smithfield Market, London. From 1914 to 1919, he was with the British Expeditionary Forces, and saw action at Gallipoli, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Turkey and Greece.

On January 8, 1921, at Surrey, Mr. Harrington married May Cissie Florence Spratley, daughter of Frederick W. and Ann M. Spratley. Mrs. Harrington is the sister-in-law of Sir Frank Spencer Spriggs, British aircraft manufacturer, who was knighted during World War II by King George VI for his defense and war work. Sir Frank, who was a classmate of Mr. Harrington's in England, was visited by the King and Queen at his plants in the course of the war. Mrs. Harrington is president of St. Martha's Guild of St. John's Episcopal Church, Decatur. The Harrington home is at 505 South Seige Street, Decatur.

After World War I, Mr. Harrington returned to his Smithfield Market job, where he remained until March, 1921, meantime attaining promotion to cashier. In April, 1921, he came to America, with Mrs. Harrington, and they settled in Decatur. Mr. Harrington began as a stockman and truck driver for the Decatur Paper Company, and rose to salesman, 1923-1926; salesman, 1927; and secretary-treasurer, 1928-29. The business was sold in 1929 to the Irwin Paper Company of Quincy and incorporated as the Decatur Paper House, Inc., in 1930. Of this concern Mr. Harrington was made office and credit manager. In 1936 he was elected vice-president and general manager, the posts he holds today. He is a stockholder of both the Decatur Paper House and the Peoria Paper House of Peoria, another affiliate of Irwin Paper Company. The Decatur firm has grown from a \$130,000 volume in 1930 to \$1,000,000 volume. It employs 36, and distributes Hammermill papers, Armstrong insulation and Congoleum-Narin floor coverings and other products.

Mr. Harrington has been one of Decatur's most active residents. He has participated in Community Chest, Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce and church drives and in the World War II years worked in Macon County for British War Relief. In addition to the "Jaycee" Award, he has won the Rectors Cross

award at St. John's for outstanding work in the church and is an honorary member of Father Flanagan's Boy's Town. He is a graduate of the Dale Carnegie Public Speaking and Human Relations School (he was vice-president of his class) and is now vice-president of the Dale Carnegie Graduates Club of Decatur. He also belongs to the Rotary Club, the American Legion, the Chamber of Commerce and to the Men's Club of St. John's Church, being chairman of its Youth Work Committee. At the church he has been vestryman and parish warden since 1945 and has served as a member of the financial committee for the parish building and chairman of the Boy's Club. One of his "boys" is his grandson, Mark Harrington Belschner, son of Mr. Harrington's daughter, Mrs. Jacqueline Harrington Belschner. Through his many activities and interests Mr. Harrington has been giving exceptional service to his adopted country and city and, in consequence, is a popular Illinoisan.

DONALD WATSON HILL

Member of an old Macon County family, Watson Hill is now president of the Crown Cork Specialty Corporation, with headquarters in Decatur and a new modern factory, completed in 1950, in St. Louis. Mr. Hill is well known among business men in all parts of the nation and is a leading figure in the community and public life of Decatur. He is a prominent Republican. In World War II he gave important service in civilian and technical capacities and as an industrialist.

Mr. Hill was born in Canon City, Colorado, on November 22, 1904, the son of Hugh J. and Mary Ethel (Watson) Hill. His father, born on a farm near Decatur, is a land owner now living in retirement in Gunnison, Colorado, in the summer and Yuma, Arizona, in the winter. Donald Hill's grandfather was John Hill, also a land owner, and great-grandfather Hugh W. Hill, an early settler in Illinois who invented and manufactured Hill Hog Ring. Mary Ethel Hill is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Watson, who were early settlers in Colorado and who owned and operated numerous ranches. Donald Hill attended grade school and high school in Decatur. Then he studied at James Millikin University, Decatur, and DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana. In his school days he was a basketball player.

From 1928 to 1931 Mr. Hill worked for the Indian Refining Company at Lawrenceville,

Illinois. Since 1931 he has been with his present organization, the original name of which was Williams Sealing Corporation. He began in the accounting department at Decatur. Two years later he was promoted to sales, and in the following year, 1934, was made sales manager. The Williams Sealing Corporation was sold in 1936 to the Crown Cork and Seal Company of Baltimore, and Mr. Hill continued with the new concern as sales manager. In 1937, he was promoted to vice-president in charge of sales. Then he went to New York, where he established a district office and lived for one year. In 1938 he went to Chicago, and there also lived a year. Then, in 1939, Mr. Hill was elected president of the company. It was he who changed the corporation name to the Crown Cork Specialty Corporation, and he has continued as president since that year. Under his guidance the firm grew to such extent that the new factory building, doubling in size the operations, was begun in 1949.

Mr. Hill married Elizabeth Parriott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Parriott, in Lawrenceville on April 25, 1930. Mrs. Hill is one of Decatur's outstanding women. A graduate of the University of Illinois of the Class of 1929, she is active in Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, in the American Association of University Women and the Junior Welfare League of Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Hill worship at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Decatur, and reside at 245 North Summit Avenue, in that city. They have three children—Susan, born in 1931, who in 1950 was attending Christian College, Columbia, Missouri; Lucy, born in 1936, attending Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, Decatur; Donald Watson Hill, Jr., born in 1940, attending Dennis School, Decatur.

Mr. Hill's activities in the community brought him appointment to the City Planning Commission, on which he served two years, and election to the Decatur Association of Commerce directorate and to the office of treasurer. He is also active in the Decatur Country Club, South Side Country Club of Decatur, the Decatur Club, the Elks Club and the Missouri Athletic Club. In World War II he was technical advisor to the Quartermaster Corps and manufactured small metal stampings for the government. He was a close friend of the late Wendell Willkie and is a supporter of Harold Stassen. He is somewhat of an authority on fly fishing. He is one of the builders of the Middle West.

MARTIN T. GARBE

A man who has had much to do with popularizing soft drinks in Central Illinois—especially Grapette—is Martin T. Garbe of Mattoon. One of the founders of the Grapette Bottling Company of Mattoon, a corporation, Mr. Garbe now owns all the stock in this concern and has built it to the point where it covers all or part of seven counties in its distribution not only of Grapette, but also Lemonette, Squirt, Mason's Root Beer, Vess Cola, Whistle and several flavors. He is also a vice-president and director of the H. W. Clark Foundry, a pioneer business firm of Mattoon, and is active in civic endeavors seeking to improve local programs for health and welfare, character-building and culture.

Martin T. Garbe was born in Dieterich, Effingham County, on January 16, 1912, the son of August and Lena (Wolf) Garbe. His father, a farmer, also born at Dieterich, is the son of Frederick Garbe, who emigrated to the United States from Mecklenburg, Germany, in the middle of the nineteenth century. The mother, born on a farm in Jasper County, near Montrose, is the daughter of Lawrence and Bertha (Goebel) Wolf, natives of Germany.

Mr. Garbe went to grade school in District No. 80, Effingham County. He spent three years in the Dieterich High School and his fourth year at John Swaney High School at McNabb, in Putnam County. In 1935, he took the degree of Bachelor of Science at the University of Illinois College of Agriculture, having worked his way through college. He was editor of the "Illinois Agriculturist" in his senior year and further distinguished himself by writing the winning essay on "Meat Consumption and Modern Human Welfare" in competition with all the universities and colleges of the United States and Canada.

From 1935 to 1939 Mr. Garbe served as farm loan representative for the Aetna Life Insurance Company at Bloomington and Decatur. On November 1, 1939, he moved to Mattoon, where he entered the real estate and insurance business in which he is still engaged. He was elected to the board of directors of the H. W. Clark Foundry on February 10, 1945, and two years later was also made vice-president. In the Fall of 1945 Mr. Garbe helped organize the Grapette Bottling Company of Mattoon. Later he bought all the stock. The company, which had a modest beginning in the war period, with only one truck, now has seven trucks distributing its products in the seven-county area.



MARTIN T. GARBE

On August 29, 1937, Mr. Garbe married Leota C. Martens, at Bloomington. Mrs. Garbe's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Martens, were formerly of Bloomington. Mr. Martens passed away September 28, 1948, and is interred at Bloomington, Illinois. Mrs. Martens now resides at Pasadena, California. Mrs. Garbe attended Stephens College at Columbia, Missouri, and Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1936 from the latter. She was organization chairman of the Mattoon Girl Scout Council and is also active in the Valparaiso Guild and the Ladies Aid of St. John's Lutheran Church of Mattoon. Mr. and Mrs. Garbe have two sons, Warren M., born April 20, 1938, and Dwight S., born January 25, 1944.

Mr. Garbe has been widely active in civic work. He assisted in raising funds for the Mattoon Athletic Association, the Mattoon Airport, United Charities Building, Mattoon Development Corporation and the Community Chest, serving the last named as secretary and campaign chairman. He was chairman of the committee for the Eastern Illinois General Hospital and is on the board of Memorial Methodist Hospital, Mattoon. For three years he was president of the Mattoon Civic Music Association. Mr. Garbe is president of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Laymen's League, and is a member of the Kiwanis Club, Coles County Agricultural-Industry Board and the Mattoon Association of Commerce. He is regarded as one of the most ardent boosters of Mattoon and the entire region.

EDWARD DIRKS

Behind him a distinguished collegiate and World War II Military career, Edward Dirks of Mount Vernon is today making a reputation in the field of community organization. He is secretary of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, the second post of its kind he has held. He is rapidly becoming a leader in Mount Vernon and Jefferson County's civic and business affairs and in the state's chamber of commerce movement.

Mr. Dirks was born in Fairbury, Livingston County, on August 16, 1921, the son of L. E. and Helen (Voorhees) Dirks. His father and mother are both also natives of Illinois, the mother having been born at Fairbury. They are now residents of Sheldon, in Iroquois County, where L. E. Dirks is an electrician. Edward Dirks grew up in Sheldon, and there went through the elementary and high schools.

He spent a year at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, and then transferred to Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1943. At the university, Mr. Dirks achieved such distinction as to be recorded in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. He was graduated with honors. He was elected to the Blue Key, national men's honor society, and to Theta Chi; was active in music, dramatics and school publications and school ceremonies. After he obtained his degree Mr. Dirks went into the United States Navy, in which he served for two and one-half years. For a time he was commander of LST 123. At the time of his separation from the service Mr. Dirks held the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade. Upon his return to his native state, Mr. Dirks returned to school for refresher courses and in this period became interested in chamber of commerce work. He accepted the post of secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Olney, seat of Richmond County, and there remained for a year and one-half. In March, 1948, he resigned that office to assume the duties of secretary of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Dirks married Phyllis Wertsch of Delavan, in Tazewell County, on November 26, 1943. They are the parents of two children—Robert Dirks, born on December 10, 1946, and John Dirks, born on December 24, 1948. The family worships in the Methodist Church.

Mr. Dirks, aside from his activities in general community affairs and his work as coordinator of programs for the good of Mount Vernon and the surrounding region of the county, takes a leading part in the work of the Rotary Club of Mount Vernon, the Amvets and the Illinois Chamber of Commerce Executives Association and the American Chamber of Commerce Executives Association. He has proved himself a valuable citizen of the two communities he has served and of his native state.

HOWARD K. KEMPER

The Kemper and Faber Motor Company of Champaign is one of the best known of the enterprises dealing in Lincoln and Mercury automobiles in the eastern part of the State. Howard K. Kemper, who was once in the oil business and who in World War II served with the United States Army Air Forces, is also well known in that region. He is an outstanding figure in the Champaign-Urbana section and is active in various civic organizations.

Mr. Kemper was born at Putnam on May 20, 1917, and he is the son of Howard E. Kemper, a retired merchant of Pesotum, and Susan R. (Bacon) Kemper. The father was born in Pesotum, the mother in Putnam County.

After attending the elementary schools at Champaign, Howard K. Kemper spent three years at the Pesotum High School, but he was graduated from the Champaign High School. He was also a student at the Omarga Military School and for two years he studied at the University of Illinois School of Commerce. In his student days he was active in athletics, especially in football and baseball and track. At the university he was elected to Phi Delta Theta Fraternity.

In 1939 Mr. Kemper became a jobber in Champaign for the Tidewater Oil Company. The following year he entered the automobile business, in partnership with Mr. Faber. Their firm was first called the K and F Motor Company, but later was given its present name, the Kemper and Faber Motor Company. As Lincoln and Mercury automobile agents, Mr. Kemper and Mr. Faber cover Champaign, Ford and Piatt Counties, and their following in this territory—for purchases of new and used automobiles, for repairs and service and replacement of parts—is an extremely large one.

Mr. Kemper, who is widely known in the business, is a member of the American Automobile Dealers Association. He is also active in the Kiwanis Club of Champaign, the Association of Commerce of Urbana, the Champaign Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and various bodies of the Masonic order, including the Blue Lodge and the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Another organization to which he belongs is the Champaign Country Club. Golf is his favorite sport. He worships in the Methodist Church.

On December 23, 1942, Mr. Kemper married Virginia M. Gorden of Champaign, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Gorden of that city. They became the parents of Gorden Keith Kemper on January 15, 1949. Mr. and Mrs. Kemper and their son reside at 31 University Drive, Urbana. Mr. Kemper's business address is 715 South Neal Street, Champaign.

Mr. Kemper served for two and one-half years in World War II. Commissioned a Captain in the United States Army Air Forces, he was in the European Theater of Operations.

He has always striven, in military or civilian life, to render the utmost service to his fellow citizens and has in consequence won widespread respect.

EASTERN ILLINOIS CLAY COMPANY

Since 1904 the Meier family, founders of the Eastern Illinois Clay Company at Saint Anne in Kankakee County, have been making an outstanding contribution to the development of the region. Not only are they operating the Eastern Illinois Clay Company plant in Saint Anne but also a branch plant in Kankakee. In addition they own a half interest in a brick manufacturing plant at Lowell. In 1948 the Meiers founded the National Bank of Saint Anne, now an institution of a million and one-half resources. The Meiers consist today of five brothers—Albert F., Earl, Louis G., Byron and Arnold Meier. Their father, F. H. Meier, who began the family's activities in Eastern Illinois, died in 1944.

F. H. Meier, an Illinois man, had moved around a bit before settling at Saint Anne. For a time he lived at Byron, Michigan, and it was from there that he returned to Illinois in 1904. At that time his oldest son, Albert, was fifteen years old, Earl Meier was twelve years old and Byron Meier was two. Arnold Meier was born a year later. Settling the family in Saint Anne, F. H. Meier began operation of a tile plant on the north side of the community. Later he sold this factory and started another on the south side. There he built a new and larger establishment, and in 1916 the Eastern Illinois Clay Company was born. One by one the sons joined the father in the business, and it grew rapidly with so much business talent guiding its destinies. In November, 1944, the father died, and Albert F. Meier succeeded him as the head of the Eastern Illinois Clay Company. He has been in the presidency since, with his brothers Louis G. Meier as secretary and treasurer, Earl and Byron Meier as vice-presidents.

The company uses surface clay only, consuming about an acre a year at each of its plants. There are fifteen beehive kilns at the Saint Anne plant, eight beehive and one tunnel kilns at Kankakee. Each plant averages about 175 tons a day. About half this output is in drainage tile, the other half in building tile. Seventy men are employed in the Saint Anne Plant and fifty-five in the Kankakee plant. The products are shipped into all parts of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa and Tennessee. About eighty percent of the building tile goes to Chicago. The Meiers have much to



BYRON MEIER
LOUIS MEIER

ARNOLD MEIER

EARL MEIER
ALBERT MEIER

do with the success of the brick manufacturing plant, in which they have a half interest, at Lowell. On December 4, 1948, they brought into existence the National Bank of Saint Anne, with Albert F. Meier as president and the other four brothers as directors. The capital stock of this bank is \$60,000, the surplus \$20,000, while deposits total more than \$1,300,000. The total resources as of November 1, 1949, were \$1,413,820.16. This institution, a member of the American Bankers Association and the Illinois Bankers Association, is further helping develop the Saint Anne territory.

Albert F. Meier, the president of the family enterprises, was born in Pana, Illinois, on July 7, 1889, and was educated in his native community. When he had completed his education he joined his father in business. He married Maud Saint Peter in 1909 and is the father of Dr. Donald Meier, born on November 17, 1915; Ronald Meier, born January 9, 1919; Warren Meier, born on October 4, 1923, and Marjory Meier, born on January 9, 1927. He is active in the Saint Anne Chamber of Commerce and in the Masonic lodge, of which he is past master.

Earl Meier was born in Byron, Michigan, on April 1, 1892. He married Myrtle Irwin in May, 1914, and is the father of Harriet Meier, born on January 8, 1918.

Louis Meier was born at Byron on August 27, 1895, and was educated there. He, too, entered the Meier enterprises on leaving school. He married Vernice Martin on December 23, 1915, and is the father of Martin Meier, born March 24, 1918, and Gordon Meier, born June 11, 1924. He is prominent in the civic affairs of Saint Anne and is president of the Saint Anne Board of Trustees and past president of the village high school board. He is also past master of the Masonic lodge and is prominent in the activities of the Presbyterian Church.

Byron Meier was born at Byron on August 10, 1902. He married Myrtle Holtz and is the father of Doris, Byron F., Marilyn and Sharon Meier. Educated in Saint Anne's schools, Byron Meier has been in business there all his life and is one of the outstanding citizens of the community.

Arnold Meier was born in Saint Anne on March 27, 1905, and was also educated in the schools there. He married Wilma Chayer in 1932 and is the father of Barbara, Maxine, Grace and Dennis Meier, all also born in Saint Anne.

All the brothers have won positions of great stature in the community and are recognized and honored for the contribution they have made and continue to make toward the development of Kankakee County and Eastern Illinois.

WAYNE R. HINDMAN

A far-seeing innovator Wayne R. Hindman gave Herrin, seat of Williamson County, its first taxicabs and then, eleven years later, made them the first radio-controlled cabs in Southern Illinois. His cab system, known as the Serv-U-Cab Company, began on borrowed money but a policy of ten cents a trip. Today it is one of the most successful transportation businesses in the region. For two years Mr. Hindman also headed the Herrin City Bus Lines, Inc. He is a veteran of World War II.

Born in Herrin on June 1, 1907, Mr. Hindman is the son of William E. and Ada (Bandy) Hindman, both also natives of the Sucker State. His father, who has spent most of his adult life in coal production, is now a mine examiner. Wayne Hindman was educated in Herrin's public schools, graduating from the high school in 1928. He was noted as an athlete in high school, not only playing football but running the quarter-mile relay and starring with the shotput.

In March, 1928, Mr. Hindman married Roberta Thetford, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Thetford of Herrin. She died on March 12, 1948. A daughter, Barbara Jean, was born to the marriage. She is now married to Keith Gettings and both are attending Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Mr. Gettings is in charge of Mr. Hindman's business books. Mrs. Gettings attended Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri, for a year. Mr. Hindman is himself remarried. His wife is the former Mildred Teffertiller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Teffertiller of Christopher. Mrs. Hindman had operated Mildred's Department Store at Sesser, in Franklin County, before her marriage, but did not own it. Mr. Hindman bought it for her, and she continues operating it.

After he left high school Mr. Hindman went to Detroit, Michigan, where he worked in automobile plants. He also did such work in St. Louis and Flint, Michigan. He was in the industry from 1928 to 1933. In 1934 he became shipping clerk for the Howard and Casey Wholesale House at Herrin, Illinois, remaining twenty-one months. For six months more he drove for the Egyptian Freight Lines and at the end of that period

began driving a cab. On August 1, 1936, Mr. Hindman borrowed \$200. He bought a car, spent \$50 for office and telephone and started a cab company for Herrin. His wife took the calls and did the office work, and the entire fare for a trip in the company's one cab was ten cents. In a few weeks another cab was needed. Mr. Hindman's brother, Clell L. Hindman, now also in the business, donated a used car to apply as down payment on a new car to be operated as a taxi. In six months the firm had four cabs in operation. Today there are seven. In 1947, Mr. Hindman installed a two-way radio in the cabs, the first in the region. He named his company Serv-U-Cab Company, and has built his business on the basis of service. In January 1944, when he went into the Army Mr. Hindman sold the enterprise, but when he returned to civilian life the following year he bought it back. From 1946 to 1948 he was president and general manager of the Herrin City Bus Lines, Inc.

So well is Mr. Hindman known in his field of business that in 1949 he was elected vice-president of the Illinois Taxi Cab Association. He is also active in the American Taxi Cab Association. He has been sergeant-at-arms and done committee work in the Rotary Club of Herrin, and is also a member of the American Legion, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Herrin Chamber of Commerce. A flyer since 1941, Mr. Hindman owns a Luscom plane. He has about one thousand hours of flying time to his credit. His activities are contributing to the growth and well-being of his native region.

HON. CHARLES R. PINNELL

All his life a farmer and livestock man, the Honorable Charles R. Pinnell of Ashmore, Coles County, is today one of the outstanding individuals in his region of the State. He is not only a successful figure in the agricultural world, but also a board chairman of the Charleston Production Credit Association and a leader in school board activities in both Coles and Edgar Counties. He is also prominent in the Christian Church and Masonic circles.

Born at Kansas, Edgar County, on September 14, 1894, Mr. Pinnell is the son of Harrison F. and Margaret Ringland Pinnell. Harrison Pinnell, born on May 31, 1861, was a breeder of registered Hereford cattle from 1890 to 1916. He was prominent in Christian

Church work and died in November, 1936. Margaret Pinnell was also born at Kansas, on March 6, 1863, the daughter of Dr. George and Margaret Ringland, who came to Illinois from Pennsylvania after their marriage.

Charles R. Pinnell was educated in a rural school in Edgar County and at the high school in Kansas. He has lived and worked on a farm all his life, having begun with his father.

In December, 1919, Mr. Pinnell married Vera Smith, the daughter of W. O. and Minnie (Jackson) Smith. The ceremony took place in the home of the Reverend R. S. McCowan, Pontiac. Mrs. Pinnell is active in the Order of the Eastern Star, the Kansas Women's Club, the Ashmore unit of the Coles County Home Bureau and in Sunday School and other programs of the Christian Church. Mrs. Pinnell's hobbies are the collecting of antiques and flower gardening. Mr. and Mrs. Pinnell have two children. Their son, Wayne Charles Pinnell, born on September 28, 1920, married Evelyn Goble, who was born on November 22, 1921. They have a son and daughter, Stephen Charles, born May 15, 1944, and Dianna Lynn, born January 26, 1946. Mr. and Mrs. Pinnell's daughter, Dorothy Jean, born on August 2, 1924, is the wife of John Charles Adams, who was born on February 10, 1923. They also have a daughter and son, Mary Elizabeth, born on September 22, 1946, and Edward Allyn, born July 28, 1948.

In 1919, after his marriage, Charles Pinnell moved with his wife to a farm of his own, about four miles from his birthplace. Here he has continued his crop-growing and livestock-raising-and-feeding activities. For years he has maintained a herd of registered Herefords, and this goes back to the time he was twelve, when he owned his first Hereford. Mr. Pinnell served eleven years as director of the Charleston Production Credit Association, eight as board chairman. For nine years he was on the rural school board of directors for District 25, Coles County; for thirteen years he was chairman of the Kansas Community High School Board and for two years was chairman of the Edgar County School Survey Committee. For twenty-two years Mr. Pinnell was superintendent of the Sunday School of the Kansas Christian Church, and also taught a class of boys and girls. In addition, he has been on the board of elders and been chairman of the board of trustees. In politics he is a Republican, but entirely as a voter. His address is Rural



HON. CHARLES R. PINNELL

Route 2, Ashmore. In his section of Coles County, Mr. Pinnell is regarded as a citizen who has done his utmost to speed development and welfare.

FREDERICK PHILIP SCHLITT, SR.

From the time he was fifteen years old until his death in 1929 at the age of sixty-six, Frederick Philip Schlitt, Sr., was in the hardware business—a span of fifty-one years. In that period Mr. Schlitt became a noted figure in the hardware world and one of Illinois' outstanding citizens. He was the founder of the Schlitt Hardware Company of Springfield, a firm with retail stores in that city and in Bloomington and Jacksonville and an affiliated enterprise, an industrial supply house. The Schlitt Hardware Company is today operated as a partnership by Mr. Schlitt's three sons, Frederick Philip Schlitt, Jr., Franklin Schlitt and Theodore Schlitt, all three of whom have become leading business men in Downstate Illinois. The industrial supply business, founded by the sons, is now operated by them and their wives as a partnership, and has also grown to tremendous proportions, extending the fame of the Schlitt name.

Born in Springfield on January 4, 1863, the senior Frederick Philip Schlitt went to work at an early age. In 1878, when he was fifteen, he began his career in the hardware business. This was with the O. F. Stebbins hardware store in Springfield. He remained with this firm until 1883, when he moved to Kansas City, Missouri, to work for Richards and Conover, also a hardware concern. A few years later Mr. Schlitt moved to Chicago and there was employed by the Stebbins Hardware Company. In 1890, Mr. Schlitt returned to Springfield as general manager of the J. L. Hudson Corporation, hardware merchants, a post he held through 1915. On February 15, 1916, Mr. Schlitt opened for business as the Schlitt Hardware Company. His first store was at 407 East Adams Street, Springfield. But soon he was forced to move to larger quarters at 418 East Adams Street. About 1925 he had to make another move, his business having grown to a point where it demanded considerable space, and he established the store at its present location, 422 East Adams Street, Springfield. When he first started, Mr. Schlitt had the assistance of two clerks. Today there are twenty-seven employees in the business, and the operations extend into many corners of the state.

Mr. Schlitt married Louise Eberlin, a native of Springfield, in that city in 1898. She died

on April 25, 1939. Of the three sons of that marriage, the oldest, Frederick Philip Schlitt, Jr., was born in Springfield on August 11, 1902. He has become one of the renowned citizens of his native city. He is known not only in the hardware business and civic affairs but in the Masonic world. Member of all Masonic bodies, including the Jesters and Ansar Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Springfield, he is immediate past potentate of the Temple. He also belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Rotary Club of Springfield, the Illini and Sangamon Clubs. He married Irma Calliflower on August 3, 1929, and is the father of Jo Ann Schlitt, born on August 20, 1931. The second son of the late Mr. Schlitt is Franklin Schlitt, born on May 4, 1906, also in Springfield. He, too, is prominent in community life and is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Springfield and the Sangamon Club and holds the thirty-second degree in Masonry. The youngest son is Theodore Schlitt, born in Springfield on April 25, 1908. He is another of the family prominent in Masonry and likewise belongs to all bodies, including the Shrine and the Jesters. In addition he is a member of the Elks Lodge, the Rotary Club and the Illini and Sangamon Clubs. Franklin Schlitt married Doris Goodall on August 5, 1927, while Theodore Schlitt married Edith Williams on July 11, 1931. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Schlitt are the parents of Theodore Schlitt, Jr., born on February 24, 1938, and Janet Schlitt, born on July 23, 1941.

On March 1, 1929, Mr. Schlitt took the two older sons into the Schlitt Hardware Company. Only a few months later, on November 26, 1929, as he was approaching his sixty-seventh birthday, he died. Theodore Schlitt was at the time a student at the University of Illinois. When he was graduated in June, 1931, he too was taken into the family partnership. On April 1, 1939, the three brothers organized an industrial supply business. On January 1, 1944, they converted this into an adequate partnership, with themselves and each of their wives as equal partners. The first of the retail branches was opened in Bloomington on December 5, 1941, and five persons are now employed there. The store at Jacksonville was opened on April 1, 1944. This was purchased from the old Smith Hardware Company, which had been in business in Jacksonville many years. Under the guidance of the three sons the great business founded by the late Frederick Philip Schlitt is flourishing and spreading like the green bay-tree, perpetuating the traditions of public service established by

that public-spirited and generous citizen who left so strong a mark of his personality on Springfield and the state in general.

CARL M. REISCH

Gold Top Beer, bottles, cans and kegs, is made by a company which celebrated its hundredth anniversary in 1949. That concern is the Reisch Brewing Company of Springfield, founded by Carl M. Reisch's grandfather. Once headed not only by the grandfather but also by Mr. Reisch's father, the firm is now under the guidance of Mr. Reisch, the third generation in the business. Like his grandfather and father, Mr. Reisch, a lawyer by profession, has been one of Springfield's leading citizens for years. Associated in the brewing company with him are his brothers, George F. Reisch, vice president, and Walter S. Reisch, secretary-treasurer.

Carl M. Reisch was born in Springfield on March 9, 1884, the son of George Reisch, a native of Sangamon County who died in July, 1938, after an illustrious career. George Reisch's father was Franz S. Reisch, who was born in Germany and who came to the United States as a young man in 1833. Franz Reisch founded the Reisch Brewery in 1849, starting on a small scale. Through the years the brewery has expanded and grown. It now has a capacity of 100,000 barrels a year, and its plant consists of several buildings. George Reisch followed his father into the business and succeeded him as its president. He was also an officer of the Illinois National Bank of Springfield, a director of the Springfield Elevator Milling Company and a partner in the ownership of one of Springfield's two streetcar lines. He was also an officer and director of many other Springfield enterprises and was active in all the city's major community programs.

Carl M. Reisch was educated in the grade and high schools of Springfield and in the University of Michigan College of Law, Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in 1910. After practicing law in Springfield two years, Mr. Reisch joined his father in the brewing business. At first he did office work. Then, he managed a coal mine owned by his father. This was sold in 1927. He has devoted himself entirely to brewing since that year. When his father retired in 1932, Carl Reisch assumed the presidency of the Reisch Brewing Company. Mr. Reisch's brothers joined him in the enterprise a few years after he went into it, and have themselves made a large contribution to its success. "Gold Top" was adopted

as a brand name for the beer in 1910 and it is distributed in a territory with a radius of 70 miles of Springfield. Thirty-five are employed in the brewery.

George F. Reisch, who is vice president of the company, married Alvina Graser, a native of Springfield, and is the father of Margaret, now Mrs. Louis Giblin; Mary, now Mrs. Frank Zimmerman; George, who married Betty Hatcher; Catherine, now Mrs. Theodore Dickson, and Edward, who married Helen Shonka, a native of Nebraska, and is the father of Joan, Helen and Walter Reisch, Jr.

Carl M. Reisch married Audrey Lyons, a native of Minneapolis, on June 5, 1912. Mrs. Reisch is active in the Catholic Daughters of America. She and Mr. Reisch have four children—Carl Reisch, Jr., born in 1916; Robert F. Reisch, born in 1920; Barbara, now Mrs. Jerome Blair, born in 1924, and Anne L. Reisch, born in 1932. The family worships in the Catholic Church. Mr. Reisch, whose hobby is bowling, is active in the Springfield Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is a popular citizen of Springfield and one who is helping maintain that city's prosperity and culture.

CHARLES T. BISCH

Charles T. Bisch was the son of Philip and Isabel Bisch (nee Freu) and was born in Springfield, Illinois in the year 1860, in which city he spent his entire life. He attended grade school in Springfield, and graduated from Springfield High School at the age of 13, and at that time started working for his father, Philip Bisch, a cabinet maker.

Charles and his father made furniture, brick molds, and coffins; their shop was located on the corner of Sixth and Jefferson Street.

A few years later, in 1880, Charles Bisch, his father, and his brother George, entered the furniture business, opening a store at 109 North Sixth. Four years after entering the furniture business, Charles married Anna McCauly—a marriage which was destined to be a long and helpful partnership of the most exemplary sort.

A year later, in 1885, Harold P. Bisch was born. Charles' father died in 1889, and Charles continued in the furniture business at the Sixth Street address.

The furniture business continued to prosper and expand. In 1894 Charles sold the furniture business, and went into the carpet and drapery business just across the street from his previ-

This space reserved for the portrait of Carl M. Reisch

ous address, the new address being 110 North Sixth.

During the next few years there were a number of changes. In 1896, Charles Bisch entered the undertaking and funeral business at 110½ North Sixth and in 1899 due to the growth of both the undertaking and the carpet business, the two businesses were separated, the carpet business being moved to 106 North Sixth while the undertaking business remained at 110 North Sixth.

It was in 1900 that Harold P. Bisch definitely chose the undertaking business as his profession, and started to work for his father. Just six years later, in 1906, Harold P. Bisch was made partner in the undertaking business.

Business continued to grow and prosper to such an extent that it was necessary, in 1921, to move into much larger quarters. A suitable location was found at 723 East Capitol, the former Governor's Mansion. The business was conducted from that address until the Spring of 1950, at which time the magnificent new memorial home at Fifth and Allen was dedicated and placed in service.

Charles T. Bisch remained in the funeral business until his death, in September, 1939, at which time he rejoined his beloved wife who had preceded him in death slightly more than one year.

Those who knew him best are unanimous in describing Charles T. Bisch as a devout Christian who lived up to all the tenets of his church, who practiced christianity seven days out of every week, and whose greatness of character won for him a circle of friends such as few men accumulate.

He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church and for many years served as Superintendent of the Sunday School. He was affiliated with Springfield Lodge No. 4, AF&AM, Springfield Consistory, Ansar Shrine, Lala Rookh Chapter No. 216, O.E.S., Council and Knights Templars, Improved Order of Red Men, the Degree of Pocahontas, and the Past Sachems Association of Illinois. He was particularly active in the Red Men filling in turn all the offices of the State and National Association.

Charles T. Bisch was also a member of Sangamon Lodge 366, I.O.O.F., Prairie State Encampment, Lila Lodge D. of R., Knights Pythias, Pythian Sisters, Royal Neighbors, Modern Woodmen, and Springfield Lodge No. 158, B. P. O. E.

His wife, Anna, was likewise active in all civic and literary societies as well as being interested in lodge work. She was a member of

the Springfield Womens Club, Literary Research, Kings Daughters, Springfield Art Association, and the Ladies Aid of Grace Lutheran Church, of which she was a member for many years.

The Bisch Memorial Home at Fifth and Allen in Springfield, Illinois, was constructed as a memorial to Charles T. and Anna Bisch. Ground for the new structure was broken on May 10, 1949; the memorial and dedicatory services were held March 23, 1950.

At that time, Philip Bisch, son of Harold Bisch and grandson of Charles T. and Anna, unveiled the bronze plaque which now hangs in the building and which is inscribed: "Dedicated to the Service of Humanity and To the Memory of Charles T. and Anna M. Bisch."

Harold Philip Bisch, better known as Philip, was born in Springfield, Illinois on September 27, 1923. In June 1941, he graduated from Western Military Academy in Alton, and entered into the funeral business with his father, Harold P. Bisch that same year. World War II interrupted his career for three and one-half years; he was an officer of the U. S. Infantry during the war in the South Pacific theater of operations.

After the war, Philip attended the College of Mortuary Science in St. Louis, and after graduation he passed the State Board and was licensed as both an embalmer and a funeral director. He is now First Vice President and Manager of Charles T. Bisch and Son, Inc. operating and conducting the Bisch Memorial Home at Fifth and Allen.

The present heads of the business, Harold P. Bisch and Philip Bisch, the second and third generation, respectively, have frequently expressed the belief that their most precious heritage was and is the traditions of service which were handed down to son and to grandson by one of Springfield's best-loved and most highly respected citizens, the founder of the business: Charles T. Bisch.

ADOLPH CARL MODAHL

The reputation of Adolph Carl Modahl of Bloomington as citizen and leader in the ready-mixed concrete industry has spread from the Wabash Valley, where he is an outstanding figure, to many other parts of the nation. Mr. Modahl is one of the founders and is president of Modahl and Scott, Inc., the big ready-mixed concrete firm at Bloomington. He is a figure of influence in the organizations of the trade and in the community, and is well known for his work on behalf of the Christian Church.

Mr. Modahl was born in Bergen, Norway, on

April 12, 1897. His father, also named Adolph and also a native of Norway, was a ship's captain who died in 1903. The mother Martha (Sunde) Modahl, likewise born in Norway, died in 1904. Completely orphaned at an early age, Adolph Carl Modahl has risen to success by surmounting numerous obstacles and difficulties. He was a young boy when brought to America and for many years lived in Chicago. He was educated in that city's elementary and high schools and for four years worked in a bank there. When the United States entered World War I, he gave up his job to serve in the Navy and was honorably discharged in 1919. It was on his return to civilian life that year that Mr. Modahl entered the field of the building trades. This was with a building materials concern in Chicago. After two years with this concern as salesman, Mr. Modahl moved to Bloomington. The year was 1924 and from that time to 1944 he was associated with Berenz and Sons. In 1944, Mr. Modahl resigned his post and joined Edward C. Scott in forming the firm of Modahl and Scott, Inc., of which Mr. Modahl has been president since that time. The firm's ready-mixed concrete and other products are distributed throughout the Corn Belt and in this region Mr. Modahl's name is known to all. His partner is also a well known figure in the industry and community.

On March 16, 1948, at Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Modahl married Elizabeth Hayes. Mrs. Modahl, a native of Savannah, is the daughter of John and Genevieve (Reborn) Hayes, who now reside in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Hayes is an auditor with the United States Government. No children have been born to this marriage. Mrs. Modahl has two children by a previous marriage—William and Horace. By a first marriage of his own, Mr. Modahl is the father of a daughter, Elaine, who was born on November 10, 1918, and is now the wife of R. D. Lyons. Mrs. Lyons is the mother of two sons and a daughter, Richard, Randy and Martha. Mr. Modahl's first wife was Emma (Engle) Modahl, a native of Chicago. The marriage took place on January 11, 1917. Mrs. Emma Modahl died on November 20, 1945. The Modahl home is at 1232 East Jefferson Avenue, Bloomington.

Among the evidence of Mr. Modahl's leadership in his field of business are the offices he has held in trade organizations. He is a former president of the Wabash Valley Ready Mixed Concrete Association and is at present serving on the board of directors of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association. He is also a member of the American Legion, the

Bloomington Association of Commerce and the Masonic order in which he has obtained the thirty-second degree and is also a member of the Shrine. He is on the board of trustees of the Central Christian Church of Bloomington. Fishing and traveling are his major relaxations. Mr. Modahl's influence has had a substantial effect on community progress and on the development of his industry.

MERVIN RUSSELL SHELBY

In the automobile business since he was sixteen years old—which was during the World War I period—Mervin Russell Shelby of Champaign is today one of the big dealers in Eastern Illinois. He is the sole owner of the Shelby Motors Company, with office in Champaign and a branch in Urbana. His company handles Dodge and Plymouth passenger automobiles and Dodge "Job Rated" trucks, drawing customers from a wide area beyond Champaign-Urbana and Champaign County. In that area Mr. Shelby's is a well known and respected name.

Mervin Russell Shelby was born in Hoopes-ton, Illinois, on October 11, 1901, and is the son of William F. and Willa (Williamson) Shelby. His father, also a native of Hoopes-ton, was for many years a carpenter and builder in Champaign, where he is now living in retirement with his wife. Mrs. Shelby is a native of Rossville, Illinois.

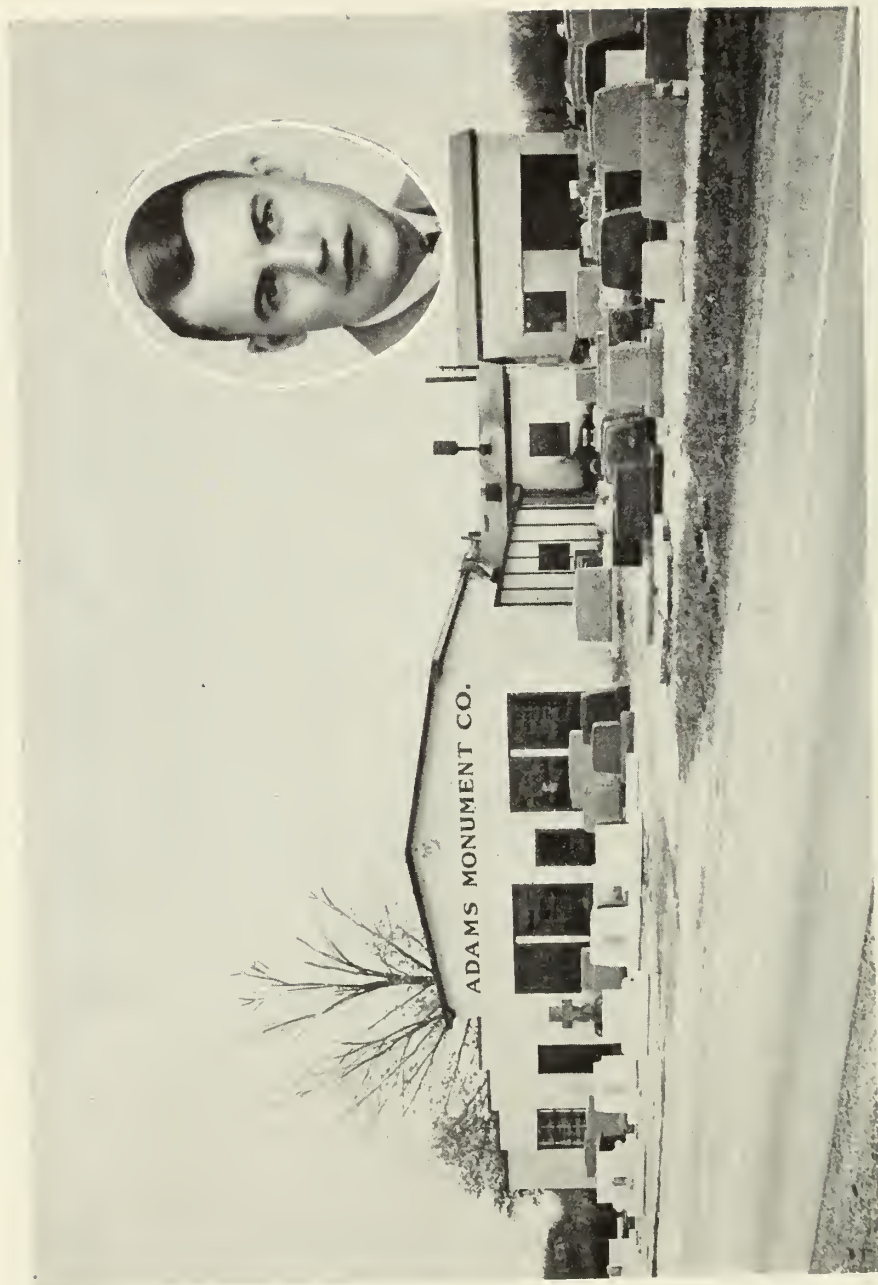
The family moved from Hoopes-ton to Champaign when the future automobile dealer was four years old. Thus he began his education in the university community, attending first the grade and then the high schools. At the age of sixteen he became a mechanic in the automobile business and for twelve years he was in the employ of M. M. Eserence, proprietor of a garage.

Mr. Shelby's next step was a position in the factory branch of the Buick Automobile Company in Chicago. In 1929 he returned to Champaign to become a mechanic for the Parkhill Motor Company. There he remained until 1939, when he went to work for the Illini Motor Company, Dodge and Plymouth dealers in Champaign. In 1942 he bought out this agency and gave it his own name—Shelby Motors. He has enlarged the business and in 1948 and 1949 built a modern sales-room and sales garage in Champaign, at 408-412 South Neil Street. In Champaign and in his branch in Urbana Mr. Shelby employs fifty persons. In addition to sales and service, Mr. Shelby sells Dodge and Plymouth parts.

He married Alice E. Brown in Champaign



MERVIN RUSSELL SHELBY



THURMOND INGRAM ADAMS

and they have become the parents of three children—Robert Jean Shelby, who is associated with his father in the automobile business; Richard Mervin Shelby and William Larry Shelby. The family is at 1213 West Church Street, Champaign.

Mr. Shelby is a member of the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association, the National Automobile Dealers Association, the Knights of Pythias and the Loyal Order of Moose, being active in the Champaign lodges of the two fraternal orders. With his family he worships in the Methodist Church. Boating and fishing are his favorite sports. As a business man in an important field of operations he has participated in all major movements aimed at development of the twin university communities and the surrounding rural and urban region.

THURMOND INGRAM ADAMS

It was Thurmond Ingram Adams' maternal grandfather, of the well-known Thurmond family, who introduced him to activity in a monumental works and it was an uncle on the mother's side who encouraged him to continue in this field. Today, Thurmond Ingram Adams, operating the Adams Monument Company in Charleston, seat of Coles County, is one of the best known figures in this industry in his section of the State. Mr. Adams is not alone in this business for his partner is his wife, Mrs. Gladys Adams, who works side by side with him in its management. Mr. Adams is prominent in Masonry as well as in civic work, and he is well known for his hobby, motorboating.

He was born at Marion, Illinois, on March 3, 1911, the son of Walter and Evaylon (Thurmond) Adams. His father, the son of Wright and Helen (Malone) Adams, and a native of Thackery, Illinois, died in 1918. The mother, who was the daughter of Elisha M. and Ida (Ingram) Thurmond, later was married to Joe Long of Marion.

Thurmond Adams became deeply attached to his maternal grandparents for, having lost his father when he was seven, he spent much of his boyhood in their home. He attended grade and high school at Marion and spent one term at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

When he was sixteen Mr. Adams went to work in the Thurmond Monument Shop at Marion, founded by his grandfather and later continued by his uncle. In his years with this shop Mr. Adams worked as monument setter,

sandblaster, shop foreman and salesman, and became familiar at first hand with all the phases of the industry. For about one year in the course of that period he worked for a construction company, but returned to monumental work.

In the meantime, on September 20, 1936, in the Methodist Parsonage at Marion, Mr. Adams married Gladys E. Jacobs, the daughter of Walter R. and Lula (Newton) Jacobs. Born in Johnston City, Illinois, Mrs. Adams was educated in its grade and high schools. She is prominent at Charleston and is a member of its Federated Women's Club, being especially active in the club's Young Women's and Literature departments and the Business and Professional Club. At Marion, she was a member of the Junior Women's Club.

In September, 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Adams bought a monument company in Harrisburg, Illinois, and since that time husband and wife have been partners and jointly active in this industry, with Mrs. Adams devoting herself full time to the work. In November, 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Adams bought out the Briggs Monument Company in Charleston and in May, 1948, sold the Harrisburg shop to be free for full time activity at Charleston. In their first eighteen months at Charleston they continued operating the business under the Briggs name, but then changed it to Adams Monument Company. They have since completely remodeled the monument building, made a large and attractive display yard and built the stock up to the largest display in their area. Mr. Adams is proud of the fact that he has one of the most modern shops and has the only complete manufacturing plant in this section of the country. He has the huge drag saw and polishers and all other necessary machinery for complete manufacture. Both Mr. and Mrs. Adams find the work interesting, and their aim is to build up the standards of memorials to achieve a beautiful cemetery in every community. They believe a memorial, large or small, is an expression of love and memory, and of mankind's eternal faith in God.

Mr. Adams holds the thirty-second degree in Masonry and among the bodies to which he belongs is the Shrine. He is also a member of Rotary, having first belonged at Harrisburg. Hunting and fishing are his main interests, but motorboating has also been a hobby and he has owned several outboard boats and motors. He worships at the First Methodist Church, Mrs. Adams in the First

Christian Church. Both are well liked, in business and social life.

JOHN DORAN

Born on an original land grant in Illinois made to his family by the United States Government, John Doran, now of Urbana, has attained tremendous stature in the freighting and warehousing world. Founder of the Champaign Transfer and Storage Company, Mr. Doran has become a figure of importance in the business and civic life of the twin-city area. A veteran of World War I, he is equally well known in veterans' circles.

Mr. Doran's birth occurred near Oakwood on August 12, 1894. His father, John Grant Doran, was a farmer. His mother was Mary Elizabeth (Mason) Doran, the daughter of John Albert and Margaret Mason.

After he had completed his schooling at Oakwood, John Doran went to Danville in 1913 for train service with the Illinois Trac-tion System of which the late Senator William McKinley was president at the time. The system is now the Illinois Terminal Railroad. Except for the year he was in service with the United States Army Mr. Doran was with the railroad until he established the Cham-paign Transfer and Storage Company.

In 1932 Mr. Doran "cut from trainservice" to work in the freight department of the railroad in Champaign and it was then that his plans were made to start the storage business in a vacant building at 611 North Walnut Street. In 1937 Mr. Doran gave up work for the railroad to give full attention to developing his business. It has become, under his direction, one of the best known and one of the biggest in Central Illinois. Freight coming to Champaign by truck via the Decatur Cartage Company is handled through Mr. Doran's warehouse. He stores and packs household goods and merchandise and also does crating and packing for shipment by railroad. In addition he does moving by truck, both local and long distance. His firm makes shipments to any place in the world and receives them from any place in the world.

One of those who helped Mr. Doran build his business was his wife, the former Marian Swisher of Rossville, the daughter of Lemon Chester and Ella (Maury) Swisher. They were married on December 31, 1919. In the first few years of the business, Mrs. Doran gave help in the office. But she has since devoted herself to her home and family and

to her many interests in the community. Mr. and Mrs. Doran are members of the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana. Mrs. Doran is active in the various welfare agencies of the twin cities, in which she frequently gives assistance as a volunteer worker. She is a former president of the Lincoln School Parent-Teachers Association in Urbana. Mr. and Mrs. Doran have two daughters—Mary Ellen, the wife of James C. Easterbrook and the mother of John, Gale and Susan Easterbrook, born in 1940, 1947 and 1949, respectively; and Lois, th wife of William B. Dean and mother of Billy Dean, born in 1947. The Doran home is at 413 West Main Street, in Urbana.

Mr. Doran is a member of the Champaign Chamber of Commerce and of the Champaign Post, No. 24, American Legion. He was with the United States Army from April 3, 1918, to March 1, 1919, serving with Battery D, 68th Regiment, Heavy Artillery Coast Artillery Corps. He had his training at Fort Wright on Fisher's Island, New York. He was in France from August 9, 1918, to February 16, 1919, and was discharged from Camp Grant. His business has been his hobby.

An indication of Mr. Doran's success is the many friends he has made in and outside the business world.

JOHN WALTER MALONE, JR., D.D.

A man may be known by the friends he keeps, but a university is known by the alumni it produces and the kind of administrator and faculty it has. James Millikin University of Decatur, made famous in its comparatively few years of existence—few, so far as university ages go—by the high caliber of its successful graduates, is fortunate in its current administrator and in the faculty he has maintained and retained. He is the Reverend Doctor John Walter Malone, Jr., who has a national reputation both as educator and as Presbyterian clergyman and who was the founder and for nineteen years the director of the McKinley Foundation-Presbyterian Student Center at the University of Illinois in Urbana. Outside the immediate fields of education and religion, Dr. Malone is a noteworthy figure also in welfare and civic work.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on March 4, 1888, the son of J. Walter and Emma I. (Brown) Malone. His father, a native of Hamilton, Ohio, was treasurer of the Malone Stone Company of Cleveland and also pastor of the First Friends Church and founder of



JOHN DORAN



OLIN LORRAINE BROWDER, A.B., LL.B.

the Cleveland Bible College. Emma Brown Malone, daughter of Charles W. and Margaret Brown, moved from Canada to Cleveland about 1870. The future university president was a student at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, from 1905 to 1909, and for two years was a letterman in track. Western Reserve awarded him the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi, both national scholastic honorary fraternities. In 1909, Dr. Malone became assistant manager of the Williamson Company in Cleveland, a post he held until 1911, when he resigned to assume the superintendency of the Children's Country Training Home at Amherst, Ohio. In 1916 he left this position to begin training for the ministry, and he entered McCormick Theological Seminary, receiving, three years later, the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. In 1920 and 1921, he was a Fellow at the University of Edinburg, Scotland. In the period Dr. Malone was preparing for the ministry he was already serving in pulpits. He was pastor of the Homewood Presbyterian Church of Chicago from 1916 to 1922. He became pastor of the McKinley Memorial Church in Champaign in 1922. In 1928 he founded the McKinley Foundation and built the Presbyterian Student Center by the same name at a cost of \$250,000.00 plus an endowment of \$400,000.00. He remained as pastor of the church and director of the Foundation until 1941. From 1941 to 1946 he was vice president of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and in 1946 he assumed his present office as president of James Millikin University in Decatur. This co-educational institution, founded in 1901, now has a student body totaling 1,200 and a faculty totaling 71 full-time and 22 part-time. During the post-war days and returning veterans the enrollment reached 1,511.

Dr. Malone married Elizabeth Mather Compton, daughter of James and Minnie (Mather) Compton, on June 11, 1914. They have two children—Melvin R. Malone and Jean, now Mrs. Myron M. Morton and the mother of Bonnie Morton. Dr. and Mrs. Malone reside at 1313 West Main Street, Decatur. Both worship, of course, in the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Malone was moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of Illinois in 1928.

Dr. Malone is a director of the Decatur Art Center, of the Illinois Children's home and Aid Society, of McCormick Theological Seminary, the McKinley Foundation at Urbana and the Decatur Association of Commerce. He is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Cham-

paign-Urbana and is now a member of the Decatur club. Beta Theta Pi is his fraternity. He is the possessor of an outstanding record of achievement in the educational and religious world.

OLIN LORRAINE BROWDER, A.B., LL.B.

As attorney and public official Olin Lorraine Browder has served Urbana and that entire region of Illinois for more than four decades. Corporation counsel of Urbana for fourteen years until May 1, 1949, he is that city's former mayor as well as a former member of the City Council. For nine years he was Urbana's Postmaster. His record also includes extraordinary service to the nation on the home front in both World Wars I and II and leadership in the Methodist Church.

Born in McLeansboro, Illinois, on September 4, 1879, Olin Lorraine Browder is the son of the late Reverend William A. Browder and Hattie A. (Henry) Browder. The Reverend Mr. Browder, a native of Nashville, Illinois, was a pioneer preacher in the southern part of the State. He spent most of his life in and around Mount Vernon. Hattie Henry Browder, also a native of Southern Illinois, was the daughter of William and Caroline C. Henry.

Mr. Browder spent much of his life, or at least the early portion of it, at Mount Vernon. A graduate of the Mount Vernon High School, he took his pre-legal courses at the University of Illinois where in 1904 he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts and in 1906 that of Bachelor of Laws. At the university he became noted in extra-curricular affairs, especially through his talents as musician and orator. He was a member of the university concert band and represented the university in the contests of the Central Collegiate Oratorical League.

In 1906 Mr. Browder was admitted to the Illinois State Bar and since October of that year he has been in continuous practice in Urbana. Though he has engaged in a general practice of the law, he has specialized in probate and municipal law. He first became corporation counsel of the City of Urbana in 1907. He served from that time until 1909. Again, he was corporation counsel from 1911 to 1913. In 1935 he again assumed this office and held it without interruption until May 1, 1949. In between times Mr. Browder held various municipal offices. He was an alderman from 1909 to 1911 and Mayor from 1913 to 1917. From 1921 to 1930 he was

postmaster. From 1931 to 1933 he was connected with the Illinois Commerce Commission serving as Investigator and Examiner. In World War I Mr. Browder served as chairman of the Champaign County Council of Defense and in World War II he was government appeal agent in the county. He was formerly president of the Family Welfare Society of Champaign and Urbana and for many years has been identified with the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society. He is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, the Champaign County Bar Association of which he is a past president, the Rotary Club of Urbana and the Urbana Country Club. In his church, the First Methodist of Urbana, Mr. Browder is also an outstanding figure. He not only serves on the board of trustees but is a former teacher in and superintendent of the Sunday School. He is a Republican and has been county chairman of the Champaign County Republican Central Committee. Golf is his favorite sport, flower gardening is his hobby.

Mr. Browder married Nellie Sheldon Taylor, the daughter of Charles B. and Nellie S. Taylor, in Urbana on June 29, 1905. Mrs. Browder's maternal grandfather was Jairua C. Sheldon, one of the early settlers of Champaign County and a contemporary and close friend of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. and Mrs. Browder have two children—1. Olin Lorraine Browder, Jr., who married Olive Forsthye on September 9, 1939, and is now professor of law at the University of Oklahoma at Norman; he and his wife are the parents of two children, Ann Dinsmore Browder, born in 1942, and Catherine Lorraine Browder, born in 1944. 2. William Bayard Browder, who married Mary Bain Lehmann on September 6, 1942, and is an attorney for the Union Tank Company of Chicago; he and his wife are the parents of three children, David Sheldon Browder, born in 1944, Wendy Elizabeth Browder, born in 1945, and Amy Spence Browder, born in 1949; their home is in Wilmette, Illinois.

Olin Lorraine Browder is known throughout a large portion of Illinois for his outstanding service to the State.

ENOS LESLIE PHILLIPS

Three decades of practice as a lawyer at Urbana have made Enos Leslie Phillips an outstanding figure in that university community and county seat. Not only has he been active in the bar but also in financial institutions and in civic, cultural and city beautification agencies and organizations. In

World War II he was active in various important programs, including the work of providing entertainment for members of the armed forces and in price control and rationing, in both of which he was the leading personality in Champaign County.

Enos Leslie Phillips was born in Urbana on February 18, 1896, the son of John Andrew and Sally (Lee) Phillips. Both parents were also born in Urbana. The father's parents were John T. and Elizabeth (Young) Phillips, who were among the first settlers of Urbana. The lawyer's maternal grandparents were George Lee, a native of Kent, England, and Rose (Hamilton) Lee, a native of Argylshire, Scotland.

Enos Phillips received his academic education in the elementary and high schools of Urbana and his legal education in the law office of Henry I. Green of Urbana. After "reading law" under Mr. Green, he became his clerk. Admitted to the bar in 1921, Mr. Phillips has been associated in practice with Mr. Green since that time.

On May 26, 1917, Mr. Phillips married Sarah May Connour, the daughter of Riley and Mary Ella Connour. The ceremony took place in Springfield. Like her husband Mrs. Phillips is interested in civic and welfare work in Urbana and is among that city's best known women. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips are the parents of a daughter, Betty, now the wife of Carl W. Knox and the mother of Enos Phillips Knox.

Active outside the bar in numerous fields of interest Mr. Phillips is a member of the boards of directors of the Busey First National Bank of Urbana and the Commercial Savings and Loan Association of Urbana. He has been president and director of the Urbana Association of Commerce and is a member of the Urbana Planning Commission. He has also served as chairman of the Community Planning Committee and as a member of the board of directors of the Urbana Free Library. In the World War II period he was chairman of the United Service Organizations (USO) Area Council and member of the State USO Committee; also, chairman of the Champaign County War Price Rationing Board, with headquarters in Urbana.

Mr. Phillips' other memberships include the Champaign County Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, the Union League Club of Chicago, the Urbana Golf and Country Club and the Ur-



ENOS LESLIE PHILLIPS



ROBERT CARL STOUT

bana Lodges of the Masonic order and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is a member of the First Presbyterian Church and has been chairman of the board of trustees of the Church. He votes Republican. Hunting is his favorite sport, civic activity his hobby. Mr. Phillips' home is at 506 West Main Street, his office at 136 West Main Street, in Urbana.

He is one of the recognized leaders of the city, an outstanding personality in many spheres of activity.

ROBERT CARL STOUT

The man who delivers the greatest number of seating bleachers for stadiums and athletic events in general in forty-four States is—Robert Carl Stout of Urbana. He is the founder and operating head of A. A. Stout and Son, interstate motor carrier, in which his father, Amos Arthur Stout, is a silent partner.

The father, before associating himself with his son in the trucking business, was a farmer in the western part of Champaign County. It was on his farm that Robert Carl Stout was born on January 31, 1913. The mother was Blanche (Nehlock) Stout, also a native of Champaign County, who died on January 23, 1948.

Robert Stout began his education in the rural schools of Champaign County. When the family moved from the farm into Urbana, he completed his preparatory education there and then entered the University of Illinois, where he majored in the School of Commerce. He remained there two years.

In 1933, Mr. Stout entered the trucking business in Urbana. He began with one used dump truck. Today he uses twenty-five modern motor trucks, all operating in interstate commerce. As mentioned before, he has been making the greatest number of deliveries of seating bleachers in forty-four states. He also does an interstate transfer business in other commodities, operating out of his terminal at 104 South Grove Street, Urbana.

On September 6, 1931, Mr. Stout married Delia Lavernway of Champaign. "I am the proud father of nine children," writes Mr. Stout. The nine offspring are Barbara, Raymond, Dale, Gladys, William, Judith, Lawrence, and Patricia. The family worships in the Christian Church of Urbana and makes its home in that city.

Mr. Stout also boasts that his hobby is his business. All his friends and associates, as well as his family, say that "he sleeps and

lives with it." As a result of this devotion, the business has grown rapidly and become an important factor in the development of many other businesses. In the course of World War II, Mr. Stout's trucks hauled butter and eggs for the United States Government to its various training camps in the various States. Mr. Stout has developed an extraordinary record of service through his business.

LAWRENCE JOHN WOHLWEND

There are approximately three thousand DeSoto-Plymouth automobile dealers in the United States. Of these, Lawrence John Wohlwend of Marion is the youngest. A curbstome used car dealer for three years, he obtained the DeSoto-Plymouth franchise in 1945, when he was twenty-nine years old, and began operating the following year. Also he has the Massey-Harris farm equipment franchise and he calls his dual business the Wohlwend Motor and Equipment Company. He is one of the leaders in the automobile dealers organizations and in Southern Illinois, Inc. In addition, Mr. Wohlwend is a farmer, breeding hogs and cattle.

He was born in Marion on July 13, 1916, the son of John and Myrtle (Trentleman) Wohlwend. His father, formerly a farmer, now works for the son in Marion. Reared on a farm in Williamson County, Lawrence Wohlwend first attended the rural schools. In 1933, he was graduated from the Marion High School and in 1936 he took the degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Tri-State College in Angola, Indiana. At Tri-State, he was the second youngest in a class of 900. He was secretary of his fraternity, Alpha Lambda Tau, and president of the literary society, Sigma Epsilon. He worked his way through school.

Mr. Wohlwend's first job was that of credit man for the International Harvester Company in Fort Wayne. Later he worked for the Retail Credit Company as an investigator. In September, 1940, Mr. Wohlwend was awarded the franchise for Ford-Ferguson farm machinery, but he had barely begun operating in this field when the United States was in World War II and the production of agricultural implements stopped. He then worked as an engineer's assistant in the State of Illinois Highway Department. Later, he was a candidate for the legislature on the Republican ticket. In 1942, 1943 and 1944, Mr. Wohlwend was a curbstome used car dealer. Then, in October, 1945, he took the DeSoto-Plymouth

franchise and immediately began work on a new building. In April, 1946, he opened up for business. Adding Massey-Harris farm equipment to his stock, Mr. Wohlwend has operated as the Wohlwend Motor and Equipment Company ever since. His display rooms and service and repair shops, employing eighteen persons, attract multitudes. In the agricultural field itself, Mr. Wohlwend operates Wohlwend Farms. He has 30 acres of his own and leases 600 more from the Government. He has about 400 head of registered Hampshire hogs and 50 head of Black Angus cattle.

On September 2, 1939, Mr. Wohlwend married Nadine Chamness, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Chamness of Marion. The marriage culminated a childhood romance. Mr. and Mrs. Wohlwend became the parents of Ronnie Wohlwend on December 5, 1941 and John Joseph Wohlwend on March 30, 1950. Mr. Wohlwend worships in the Zion Evangelical Church, his wife in the First Baptist Church of Marion. Mrs. Wohlwend also teaches a Sunday School class in her church.

Mr. Wohlwend is president of the Williamson County Automobile Dealers Association and active in the National and Illinois State Automobile Dealers Associations. He belongs to the Marion Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the Aberdeen Angus Association, of which he is a life member; the West Frankfort Country Club and the Crab Orchard Sportsman's Club. Still the youngest DeSoto-Plymouth dealer in the country, he is a leader in the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Through his business, he broadcasts all the Marion High School basketball games, a sport for which he has a great enthusiasm. He also likes fishing, hunting and bird dogs. He is giving considerable leadership to civic programs looking to the greater growth and prosperity of Marion.

RUFUS C. ALEXANDER

The career of Rufus C. Alexander of Charleston began on a farm and he is still a farmer and stockman today, with horses a hobby that has made him as well known as have his other activities. Mr. Alexander also operates a real estate, loan and insurance business and makes investments in farm lands as well as city property. He is active in financial organizations and in the Kincade Lining Company and has held public office.

Mr. Alexander was born in Charleston on February 2, 1874, the son of Randall and Nancy A. (Compton) Alexander. His father, a native of Madison, Tipton County, Indiana,

was also a farmer and stockman. However, as a boy he first worked in a dry goods store and at the carpenter's trade. Later, he and a brother-in-law, Silas M. Shepard, originated the Poland China hog for which they became noted throughout the world. Randall Alexander served one term as County Treasurer of Coles County.

Rufus Alexander obtained his education in grade school. As a boy he helped his father handle livestock (hogs and cattle). His first position off the farm was as night transfer man for the old American Express Company. Later, he worked as a messenger for the Clover Leaf Railroad and afterward as a clerk first in the Charleston Post Office, then in the Davis Shoe Store, Charleston. In 1898 Mr. Alexander went to Spokane, Washington, where he worked for the Northern Pacific Express Company and the Hutchinson Real Estate Company. From Spokane he went to Rossland, British Columbia, where he kept books for the Walter Scott Milling and Mining Company. In 1900 Mr. Alexander returned to Charleston and opened the real estate, loan and insurance office which he is still operating. At the time he started in business, Charles T. Marshall, who owned the double-store building on the north side of the square and had a broomcorn brokers office on the second floor, allowed Mr. Alexander to occupy part of this office until he could build up the business. After Mr. Marshall moved to Florida, Mr. Alexander took over the entire office, developing a successful business. Shortly before Mr. Marshall's death he purchased the building from him. Mr. Alexander has twice remodeled the structure, and it is now one of the best store buildings in the county seat.

In 1895 Mr. Alexander married Fannie Olmstead, the daughter of George W. and Mary (Fleetwood) Olmstead. They were divorced in 1901. In 1939 Mr. Alexander married Helen Beardsley, daughter of Fred M. and Belle (Ricketts) Beardsley. Mrs. Helen Alexander went to work in Mr. Alexander's office in 1918 as an assistant and continues both as his wife and as main assistant. She has been active in the Order of the Eastern Star, having filled most offices, including worthy matron, and has also been president of the Charleston Business and Professional Women's Club and district chairman of that organization. Mr. Alexander has a daughter, Maurine, the widow of Gerald D. Reed. Since the end of World War II, her son, Gerald D. Reed, has been associated with Mr. Alexander in the office. Mr. Alexander worships in the



RUFUS C. ALEXANDER



WILLIAM WALKER (BILL) BURNS

First Presbyterian Church, of which he has been an elder for many years. His home is at 500 Polk Street, Charleston.

Mr. Alexander's chief investments have been in farmlands and city property. He raises livestock on his diversified farms and has assisted several men in getting started in the raising of pure-bred Jersey cows. He maintains a fine herd of all pure-bred Jerseys on one of his farms. On level black land he has produced broom corn, Indian corn, soy beans, wheat and oats.

In 1924, Major Daniel F. Sayer died in Chicago, leaving an estate of about \$1,000,000, including several thousand acres of land in South Dakota, and named Mr. Alexander executor of his estate. A year later the widow, Mrs. Sallie F. Sayer, died, also leaving a large estate. Her will named Mr. Alexander executor and trustee, and he looked after her property until 1940. At one time Mr. Alexander owned 2400 acres of his own, operated as a cattle ranch, in Sully County, South Dakota. For many years he represented the farm loan departments of Mutual Benefit Life Insurance and Prudential Company, covering several Illinois counties.

From the time he was a boy on the farm, Mr. Alexander has been a great lover of harness horses and has been very successful in raising them, having bred and raised four world's champions, though he has never owned more than five or six broodmares at any one time. The first champion was Jerry B, that still holds the world's record for seven heats. Joan Spencer was a champion two-year-old trotting filly, with a record for the half-mile in 1943. Allen Spencer held the world's record for one and one-half miles and Moses the world's record for one and one-sixteenth miles. Mr. Alexander in 1950 had a select band of broodmares. Among them were Jochebed, 2:07 3/5, world famous for her production of race horses; Joan Spencer, 2:05 3/4, Speed Princess, 2:05 3/5, and Moses, 2:03.

Mr. Alexander was deputy county treasurer for eight years and was with the Illinois State Board of Agriculture for eight years. He has also served as a director of the Coles County Real Estate Board and vice-president and a director of the Illinois Real Estate Board. He has been a director of the First National Bank, the Coles County Building and Loan Association and the Kincade Liniement Company. In Charleston he is known for his generosity and kindness, and his willingness to help anyone in need, as well as for his sincere interest in the community's welfare.

WILLIAM WALKER (BILL) BURNS

His name is William Walker Burns but all Central Illinois knows him as Bill Burns, leader in the retail automobile business and civic affairs. He is the owner of the Bill Burns Chevrolet, Inc., in Decatur, and of the Burns Mid-Town, Inc., of Illiopolis, in adjoining Sangamon County. He has held important offices in city and state and Federal agencies and in civic organizations and, a military veteran of World War I, served the war effort in World War II in leading activities on the home front.

Born in Windsor Township, Shelby County, on June 30, 1897, W. W. Burns is the son of John Hurlburt and Dora Angeline (Walker) Burns. His father, also a native of Windsor Township, was a farmer and livestock dealer who later in life moved to Sullivan and operated a horse sale business. His mother, another Windsor Township native, was the daughter of William and Angeline Walker.

Bill Burns was educated in Eureka Country School, Windsor Township, in the Sullivan High School and at the Illinois State Normal University, Normal, where he spent a year. Mr. Burns began his career as an educator, serving as principal of the grade school and seventh and eighth grade teacher at Bethany for two years. Then, for two years, he was in the automobile business at Sullivan. When he moved to Decatur, which is now his home and headquarters, he became associated with his brother, Byron Benoit Burns, in the operation of the Decatur Auto Exchange. After two years in this concern, he and his brother became partners in the ownership of J. G. Starr and Son, Decatur Ford agency, in which they were associated three years. For Bill Burns twenty years followed as used car manager, sales manager and general manager of Frede Chevrolet Company, Decatur. On January 1, 1947, he became sole owner of the Frede Chevrolet Company, which he renamed Bill Burns Chevrolet, Inc., which is headquartered at 300 E. Eldorado St., Decatur. He has achieved renown in the auto business and in 1949 added to his reputation when he established Burns Mid-Town, Inc., at Illiopolis. Another field in which Mr. Burns has a reputation is the American saddle bred horse. On his farm, Rural Route No. 6, Decatur, he has been raising registered horses for many years. His chief recreational interest is riding these horses and showing them. He also likes basketball, baseball and bridge.

Mr. Burns married Gladys Landers, daugh-

ter of John and May Landers, at Decatur on June 23, 1923. She has given service in the community, in war and peace, as a volunteer Red Cross nurse's aide. Mr. and Mrs. Burns worship in the First Methodist Church of Decatur and reside at 275 South Taylor Avenue.

Mr. Burns was a member of the Chevrolet National Dealers War Service Committee and served on the Illinois Office of Price Administration, the Illinois Automobile Rationing Committee and the State Inter-Industry Salvage Committee of the War Production Board. He is a director of the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association and former president and director of the Trailriders. He is serving on the Decatur Parking Commission and is a former vice-president and director of the Decatur Association of Commerce. Also, he belongs to the Rotary Club of Decatur, the Decatur Country Club, Decatur Club, Masonic Lodge and Sportsman's Club. Active in the American Legion, he served nine months in the United States Army overseas in World War I. Mr. Burns is one of Central Illinois' popular citizens.

FRED EDWIN SKINNER

As president of Acme Life Insurance Company of Springfield, Fred Edwin Skinner is known throughout the accident, health and life insurance business. He adds to his reputation in this field by serving as consultant in actuarial research for other insurance firms. He also serves on important civic programs in Springfield and in Rochester, the capital's suburb in which he makes his home.

Mr. Skinner was born in Ledyard, Iowa, on July 26, 1901, the son of Edwin John and Anne D. (Gasemann) Skinner. His father, also a native of Iowa, was a merchant in the village of Ledyard for forty years. Later he operated a store at Algona, Iowa. A tinsmith by trade, Edwin Skinner sold hardware. The mother, who was born in Germany, came to the United States in 1872 when she was a young girl. Fred E. Skinner went through grade school in his native Ledyard and high school at Algona. In 1924, he was graduated from the State University of Iowa, at Iowa City, with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce.

First employed by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Mr. Skinner spent three years with that concern. Then, for four years, he was with the Security Life Insurance Company in Chicago. He resigned from that firm

to become assistant actuary for the Illinois State Department of Insurance in Springfield.

After three years in this important public post, Mr. Skinner left to become secretary of the Benefit Casualty Insurance Company. At the same time he assumed the office of secretary of the Acme Burial Association of Springfield. He held the casualty company secretarial post for three years. In 1938, he was elected president of the burial association. In 1946, the association expanded its scope and obtained a charter to operate as Acme Life Insurance Company, qualifying to write accident, health and life insurance in the State of Illinois. Mr. Skinner has continued as president and under his guidance the company has grown rapidly. Acme Life is housed in attractive offices at 224 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield. Approximately forty salesmen are employed in the field. Mr. Skinner's actuarial consultation is available to several insurance companies in Illinois and Missouri.

Mrs. Skinner was the former Neva Elliott, of Montezuma, Iowa. She is also a graduate of the State University of Iowa and it was in their student days that she and her husband met. Their eldest son, Jack, born in 1925, is also in the insurance business, being in the home office of the Mutual Trust Life Insurance Company in Chicago. He is a graduate of the State University of Iowa. He married Letitia Phillipi in February, 1948. The other children are JeanAnne, born in 1928, a graduate of the Iowa State University (1950); Joyce, born in 1932, a graduate (1950) of high school in Rochester, and Helen, born in 1938. Like her husband, Mrs. Skinner is active in civic affairs in the capital.

To his reputation as insurance executive and actuary Mr. Skinner has added that of poet, poetry being his avocation. A football player in his school days, he continues fond of most sports especially hunting and fishing. He is a member of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, president of the Oak Crest Country Club, member of Island Bay Yacht Club, and Alpha Sigma Phi, Delta Sigma Pi, Beta Gamma Sigma, the Order of Artiz. His leadership in the insurance business and in civic works has made him one of the state's outstanding citizens.

HON. CHESTER RAY SCHWARTZ

Founded in 1867, the Schwartz Lumber Company, dealers in and manufacturers of lumber, paints and hardware at Elkville, is



FRED EDWIN SKINNER



HON. JOHN W. POORMAN

now one of the largest firms in its field in Southern Illinois. It is perhaps the only firm of its kind in that region or anywhere in the United States whose retail store has become a community center or meeting place, with the proprietor and his wife, as host and hostess, serving coffee to everyone. The host—or head of the business is Chester Ray Schwartz, known to lumber and hardware men throughout the State, former Postmaster and Mayor of Elkhaville and one of the most popular personalities in the area.

Mr. Schwartz was born in Elkhaville on January 29, 1883, the son of Samuel and Sarah Jane (Hackney) Schwartz. The father, also born in Elkhaville, was the son of George Schwartz, native of Pennsylvania who achieved prominence in Illinois as farmer and State Representative. Sarah Jane Schwartz was born in Tennessee. A cousin of Chester R. Schwartz is Walker Schwartz, financial and civic leader in Carbondale, whose life and career are described in another section of this Illinois edition of the Library of American Lives.

Chester Schwartz attended the public schools of Elkhaville, Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and the University of Illinois. He was at the State university from 1902 to 1905, studying law and commerce. Upon leaving Urbana, he returned to Elkhaville and joined his father in business. They owned a saw mill in Missouri, and Chester Schwartz spent part of his time there. The sawmill was sold in 1911. Father and son also operated the lumber and hardware business in Elkhaville which the elder Mr. Schwartz had established in 1867. Since the latter's death, Chester Schwartz has headed the business. He manufactures much of his lumber, especially made-to-order pieces for the mining industry in Southern Illinois. In addition, he manufactures paints, known as Pyramid Paints, which he sells through his store in Elkhaville. The store has become a friendly meeting place for strangers, customers and "just friends," and Mr. Schwartz and his wife have become noted for their hospitality there, serving coffee in the mornings and in the early afternoon. During the period of lumber shortages, Mr. Schwartz acquired an interest in a saw mill on the Pacific coast, and was one of twenty men who operated it.

Mrs. Schwartz is the former Orminnie Adora Montroy, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Edward Montroy of Elkhaville. Mrs. Schwartz went to work for her husband on August 1, 1917, before their marriage. She

is the hardware buyer, the bookkeeper and the clerk. She is well known in Elkhaville at large, and is secretary and treasurer of her Sunday School class at the First Christian Church. In her spare time she does crocheting, quilting and "fancy work," not to mention serving coffee to those who gather in the store.

Mr. Schwartz is a trustee of the First Christian Church. He was Postmaster of Elkhaville from 1913 to 1920 and Mayor from 1927 to 1945. In his time as Mayor he improved the streets and put in a water and sewage system. He was on the high school board at the time the high school was built. He was president of the Illinois Lumber Dealers Association in 1941 and is also prominent in the Illinois Hardware Dealers Association. In addition to his business, he operates two grain farms, with an aggregate of 370 acres. His prominence extends into the Masonic order, and he is a member of the Mississippi Valley Consistory, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and Ainad Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at East St. Louis. He is recognized as the man who has done more for Elkhaville than any other person.

HON. JOHN W. POORMAN

A citizen credited with having done as much as anyone for the development of rural Coles County is the Honorable John W. Poorman of Humboldt Township, member of a pioneer family of that township. Mr. Poorman is not only a leading farmer in the county, but a merchant and a former broom-corn broker and one of those who organized the First National Bank of Humboldt and presided over its thirty-eight-year career of contribution to the urban-rural development of Humboldt and the region radiating from it. He is also prominent in the Methodist Church and is well known as a sportsman.

Mr. Poorman was born at Humboldt, the son of William A. and Sarah Ann (Wamsley) Poorman. His father was the first white child born in the township; his birth occurred on March 7, 1842. He was the son of John Poorman, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1808 and who at a comparatively early age pioneered in Coles County. Sarah Ann Wamsley Poorman was born in Adams County, Ohio, in 1849, and as a young girl moved with her parents to Humboldt Township. John W. Poorman began his education in the schools of his native township. Later, he spent a year each at Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, and Northwestern Uni-

versity, Evanston. He was an active baseball and football player in those days.

Like his father and other forebears Mr. Poorman has been a farmer all his life, but a farmer interested in other activities besides the agricultural. In 1904, he led in the organization of the First National Bank of Humboldt, which opened for business on July 1st of that year. He was its first cashier and subsequently its president. He was president at the time of its liquidation on December 6, 1942. The bank was considered one of the soundest financial institutions in the county and after the bank moratorium proclaimed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in March, 1933, opened for business on the first day permitted by presidential order. At the time of the liquidation in 1942, deposits totaled more than \$250,000 and the liquidating figures showed less than a one per cent loss on its loans. From 1921 to 1942, Mr. Poorman was in the broomcorn business. With a partner, Elmer Sutton, he operated the broomcorn brokerage firm of Sutton and Poorman. This also was liquidated in 1942.

In 1909, at Humboldt, Mr. Poorman married Mrs. Grace Danner Moore, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Josephus Danner. Mr. and Mrs. Poorman are the parents of one daughter, Mary Elizabeth Poorman, who lives with her parents. She was graduated from DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1932 and is a member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority and taught in the Humboldt Community High School for twelve years. Mrs. Poorman has been active in Humboldt Methodist Church throughout her life and was its pianist for twenty-five years. Mr. Poorman is also active in the church and at present is on the official board.

Mr. Poorman has participated in public affairs in still another way. For two terms in the 1920's he was a member of the Coles County Board of Supervisors and in 1925 was chairman of that body. At present he is serving on the Coles County Housing Board. He is a Democrat. Both Mr. and Mrs. Poorman are lovers of the outdoors and enjoy fishing and hunting together. They own a cabin at Lake Mattoon, in Coles County, where they spend their summers and do considerable fishing. Mr. Poorman has won not only the affection but the respect and admiration of the entire county for his public interest and the ability he has demonstrated in his efforts on the public behalf.

JAMES WILLIAM FRAZIER, II

"If there is anything to the theory that it takes several generations to make a good farm and a top-notch farmer, you'll find support for the idea on the fertile 365 acres operated by J. W. Frazier and Son." So wrote a prominent farm editor of James William Frazier, II, and his son James William Frazier, III, now operating as Frazier and Frazier, whose farm and cattle-feeding lots are of international reputation. They are located seven miles north of Charleston, Coles County.

James William Frazier, the grandfather of James William Frazier, II, purchased most of the land from the Government in 1850, when it was a piece of prairie without a tree. The log cabin built by this descendant of Scotsmen who settled in Virginia in 1730 and fought in the Revolution and other important American wars has been replaced by a succession of houses, all erected on the same site. The present beautiful family home is nationally famous, and has been described and pictured in many newspapers and magazines. Numerous magazines, notably *The Country Gentlemen*, have devoted much space, even covers, to the farm, its personalities, its stock, crops and other appurtenances.

"Today," says the same editor, "J. W. and his son James are demonstrating that the farm offers as broad an opportunity for the use of brains, skill and hard work as the office or factory."

James William Frazier, II, was born at Big Creek, Paris, Illinois, on November 23, 1878, the son of Thomas Ellsberry and Alice (Swango) Frazier. His father, born at Rich Woods, Paris, was also a farmer. His mother, a native of Hazel Green, Kentucky, was the daughter of Stephen and Caroline Swango, also natives of that Kentucky community. The family has been prominent through the centuries both in Scotland and in America, and before that was famed in France, under the name of Frezeau. It has written its deeds and contributions into the history of many lands, where its motto, "I am ready," has always signified a willingness to serve.

J. W. Frazier, as he is better known to distinguish him from his son, known popularly as James Frazier, was educated in Coles County rural schools, at Hogsett Military Academy in Danville, Kentucky, and at the University of Illinois, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1902. He has since devoted himself to the develop-



JAMES WILLIAM FRAZIER, II



JAMES WILLIAM FRAZIER, III

ment of the family farm and its cattle-feeding business. He has won prizes, alone or in conjunction with his son, for cattle and crops. Outstanding among these were the Grand Championship for Texas Hereford Yearlings, won at the International Livestock Exposition in 1918—he has year after year won prizes at this exposition—and second prize for a 10-acre soy bean production, in a contest sponsored by the University of Illinois throughout the state, and first prize for seed-corn production on five acres, sponsored in Coles County by the DeKalb Agricultural Association. Also, he and his son have become famed for their gopher oats production. Grain farming, cattle feeding, hog production, cattle showing . . . these are the activities on which J. W. Frazier's fame rests. He has also been in the electrical appliance and general engineering fields. He has specialized in baby beef in fat carlot shows from 1915 to the present time, winning eighty ribbons for champions and grand champions. He has written a great deal about his activities, giving valuable technical advice to others in the industry.

On December 18, 1906, at Sedalia, Missouri, Mr. Frazier married Sarah Frances Dameron, the daughter of William T. and Virginia (Bell) Dameron. Like her children, Mrs. Frazier is musically talented. She has been violinist with the Eastern Illinois State College Symphony, at Charleston, and the Lake Worth Philharmonic at Lake Worth, Florida. Like Mr. Frazier a member of an old American family, she is prominent in the Daughters of the American Revolution. She also belongs to the Woman's Club, Garden Club, Parent-Teachers Association, the Ladies Aid, the Home Bureau, the Good Will and other organizations, and is active in the Bushton Christian Church at Bushton and its Sunday School. Mr. Frazier, incidentally, is a deacon, elder and trustee, and treasurer and Sunday School teacher in this church. Mr. and Mrs. Frazier have three children. James William Frazier, III, who is separately chronicled in this edition of "Library of American Lives, is the oldest. He married Pauline Wilson of Metropolis, Illinois, and is the father of Pamela, Thomas Michael and Paula Frazier. The next child is Virginia Dameron, the wife of Robert Morison Curtis of Ridgewood, New Jersey, and mother of Peter James Barry Curtis. Youngest of the three Frazier children is John Ferdinand Frazier. Mr. and Mrs. James W. Frazier, II, reside at 1308 Jackson Street, Charleston.

Mr. Frazier's services have been commended by many public and quasi-public agencies in time of peace and war. In World War I, he received a citation from Washington for his food and other activities, and he has served on the Advisory Committee on Livestock for the University of Illinois Agricultural College and been chairman of the Coles County Committee for AAA and Public Relations. In addition, he has been a judge of feeding and fat cattle at national shows. He has been a director of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, the Better Beef Association of America and has served in various elective and appointive offices in the County of Coles. Among his organizational affiliations are Coles County Golf Club, Rotary Club of Charleston, Sons of the American Revolution (two bars), the Coles County Farm Bureau and the Saddle and Sirloin Club of Chicago. He has been a sponsor of the Boy Scouts of America and a leader in the Red Cross. He is a wide traveler, in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Friendly, kind, intelligent, he is one of the valuable citizens of the nation, as countless authorities have agreed.

JAMES WILLIAM FRAZIER, III

Frazier and Frazier is a firm name which, radiating from Coles County, has made a national reputation in the agricultural field. It is associated with prize cattle, prize hogs and prize grain crops. Located seven miles north of Charleston, the seat of Coles County, the Frazier and Frazier farm has grown to its fame through the alertness of its owners to new ideas in planting and cultivating, in livestock breeding and feeding, in their showing of their products and in marketing, as well as in machinery, labor relations, accounting and other procedures.

As the name implies, the farm is a partnership—of James William Frazier, III, and his father, James William Frazier, II. The elder Mr. Frazier, whose own story is told on other pages of this Illinois edition of the Library of American Lives, now in his 72nd year (1950), lives in partial retirement in Charleston. Hence, his son and partner is the guiding spirit of the great business which has been the subject of so many stories and pictures in newspapers and magazines throughout the nation. The farm itself goes back to the days of the great-grandfather of James Frazier, as J. W. Frazier, III, is known. That ancestor, James William Frazier, himself descended from a family which had

achieved tremendous fame in France and later in Scotland and has since written its deeds into American history, bought nearly all of the present 365 Frazier acres from the Government in 1850. Today the partnership of father and son, James William Frazier's descendants, employ four men in their busy seasons and keep building the farm to the utmost of its capacity, while at the same time practicing the most modern soil conservation methods.

James Frazier was born in Charleston on March 27, 1908. His mother is Sarah Frances (Dameron) Frazier, well known for her talents as violinist and her activities in many civic and social and church organizations. After attending the Bushton Grade School, Mr. Frazier studied at the Eastern State Teachers College High School in Charleston and at the University of Illinois. From the university he received the degrees of Bachelor of Science in 1932 and Master of Science in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in 1933. In 1933, too, he was elected to Sigma Xi. Mr. Frazier was prominent in athletics in his school days. At high school, he went out for football, basketball, track and baseball and was captain of the basketball team. At the university he was on the basketball and football teams; also, he played golf. Mr. Frazier's apprenticeships and experience have included grain farming, cattle feeding, hog production, cattle showing, general engineering such as welding, plumbing, electric repair and installation, blacksmithing and concrete construction.

From 1933 to 1934 Mr. Frazier was with the Illinois State Highway Department as an engineer. In the next five years he served as camp superintendent for the Soil Conservation Service. Since 1939 he has been his father's partner on the 365-acre farm, participating and leading in the program of raising corn, oats and alfalfa and in feeding and raising livestock. One-half of the farm is devoted to livestock feeding (cattle), the other half to hog raising. Since 1939, also Mr. Frazier has specialized in baby beef in fat carlot shows, winning numerous ribbons, citations and medals both for cattle showing and corn raising. In 1945, Matt Clark, the Pennsylvania painter, visited the Frazier farm and made paintings. These have appeared on the covers of the Country Gentleman—October, 1945, the cattle, and September, 1946, the hogs. This magazine as well as other publications have repeatedly carried pictures and stories of the farm and its activities, person-

alities and crops. The family itself, with all its ramifications reaching back into medieval days, has also been written up extensively, for it and its collateral branches belong to the highest social echelons.

James Frazier married Pauline Wilson, daughter of Lyman B. and Effie (McCrory) Wilson, at Evansville, Indiana, on September 3, 1938. A graduate of the University of Illinois, from which she received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Education, Mrs. Frazier was, before her marriage, a school teacher. Also she has traveled considerably, particularly in Europe. She is a member of the Woman's Club of Charleston, the Parent-Teachers Association, the Ladies Aid, the Home Bureau, Red Cross, Charleston Reading Circle and other organizations and is active in the Sunday School and other activities of the Bushton Christian Church at Bushton. She and Mr. Frazier are the parents of two daughters and a son—Pamlea, Thomas Michael and Paula Frazier, born in that order. The Frazier home address is R. F. D. No. 3, Charleston.

In addition to various minor appointive offices in Coles County, Mr. Frazier served on the local school board until 1948. His military record includes four years in the Citizens Military Training Corps and two years in the Reserve Officers Training Corps. He is a member of the Democratic Party, of the Urbana Country Golf Club at Urbana, the Coles County Farm Bureau and the Coles County Chapter of the American Red Cross. In 1925, he became a charter member of the Charleston Unit, Order of DeMolay. A wife's description of her husband is always interesting, and here is Mrs. Frazier's of her husband: "Mr. Frazier is six feet, weighs 200 pounds. He has dark brown hair, gray green eyes and is more shy and retiring than his father, but with the same kindness and intelligence. He is intensely interested in the farm's progress, continuously searching for knowledge and facts to improve methods. He is a devoted father and definitely a farm and home man. His engineering training in college has helped in a great degree in developing and building improvements on the farm." The consensus in the cattle world is that, like his father, James Frazier is an invaluable citizen.

LLOYD LEE PARKER

In Southern Illinois, where he operates the largest furniture, piano and musical instrument store, Lloyd Lee Parker of Harrisburg is



LLOYD LEE PARKER
The Piano Man of Southern Illinois



ADRIEL JOSEPH WALKER

known as "Car Load Lots" Parker. This is because, having through his own efforts made it profitable to operate a music store instead of using the old methods of a house-to-house canvass to sell from a sample and having popularized every type of musical instrument, he is able to buy and sell such instruments by the carload. He is also known as Lloyd L. Parker, the Music Man—and this soubriquet is self-explanatory. He has also been interested in the real estate development of Harrisburg and has purchased and improved innumerable residential and commercial structures there. In addition, he has participated in the social and civic life of the community and supported every worthwhile community issue.

Mr. Parker was born in Saline County on July 3, 1885, the son of Richard Davis and Martha Ann (Jones) Parker. His father, a native of Kentucky and the son of Winston Parker, was a farmer. The mother was born in Saline County. From the family farm Lloyd Parker went to country school, helping his father in his spare time. He remained on the farm until he was twenty-five. His first retail experience was the sale of apples grown on the farm. These he peddled in Harrisburg. Later he went to work for Horning's Grocery Store, delivering and clerking for \$40 a month. For ninety days after leaving the grocery he worked in a brick yard and subsequently he drove a horse-drawn bakery wagon. It was in 1913 that he started selling pianos. The following year he began earning his nickname of "Car Load Lots." He rented a building and ordered a carload of pianos on credit. From this audacious move has developed the largest furniture and musical instrument store in Southern Illinois. He had entered the music business in Saline County when as an industry it was still in its infancy, and he made phonographs as well as pianos items which everyone wanted. When radios began to supplant phonographs, his store became the Mecca for radio fans. Later, he added furniture to his merchandise and today Lloyd L. Parker's Furniture Store is a household name in the region. Mr. Parker has ten floors with a total of 30,000 square feet of floor space under one roof. He is the exclusive distributor in Southern Illinois for the leading standard pianos of the world, and in thirty-five years he bought more than one hundred car loads of pianos direct from the manufacturers, selling them not only in Illinois, but in Indiana, Michigan, Arkansas, California, Kentucky, Colorado, Tennessee,

Missouri and Louisiana. Besides this business and real estate, he operates two farms.

When he was still living on the farm that was his birthplace, Mr. Parker married Della Gertrude Gunter, the daughter of Walter Gunter of Galatia. The date was February 15, 1905. Mrs. Parker died four decades later, in September, 1946. Two children were born to this marriage—Richard D. and Walter Lee Parker, both now associated with their father in his business. In October, 1947, Mr. Parker married Kate Ridgeway Hine. Mr. Parker worships in the First Baptist Church and Mrs. Parker worships in the Methodist Church of Harrisburg.

In his community life Mr. Parker has served on the high school board since the late 1920's. In World War II, he was chairman of the U. S. O. for Harrisburg. He has a one-hundred-percent attendance record at Rotary and is also a member of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic Order, Odd Fellows and Elks, the Greater Egyptian Association, Southern Illinois, Inc., and other organizations. "You can depend on Lloyd Parker," writes a man who has known him for forty years, and that tells the story.

ADRIEL JOSEPH WALKER

A leader in its field in Central Illinois is the Walker Construction Company, with office and warehouse at 421 South Twenty-first Street, Mattoon. This firm, which is a large general contracting business, also deals in concrete materials, asphalt, building supplies and coal. It is a partnership consisting of Adriel Joseph Walker and A. C. Huckaba.

Mr. Walker, who is an outstanding member of the construction business and is a veteran of World War I, was born at Mattoon on October 10, 1894. His parents were Frank Louis Walker, a farmer, and Henrietta Walker. Both parents were born in 1855, the father in Coles County near Mattoon. Henrietta Walker was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Teichman.

A. J. Walker was educated in the elementary and junior high schools of Mattoon. From 1916 to 1935 he worked for A. C. Loomis, a contractor, in Mattoon and then, in 1935, he and Mr. Huckaba formed their partnership, ushering the Walker Construction Company into existence. This general contracting firm has handled large and small projects since that time, and done much toward the further development of Mattoon and the surrounding area. Mr. Walker is also in the burial vault

business at Terre Haute, Indiana, and owns a half interest in a 360-acre farm at Chester-ville, Illinois. He is not active in farming, however.

Mr. Walker married Stella Cathcart, daughter of George and Margaret Cathcart of Mattoon, in 1923. The ceremony was performed in the First Christian Church of Mattoon. She died on October 20, 1946, at the age of forty-six. In July, 1947, Mr. Walker married Lavonne Wakefield, the ceremony also taking place at the Christian Church. Mrs. Stella Walker was active in that church and also in the American Legion Women's Auxiliary. Mrs. Lavonne Walker is active in the Christian Church also. To the first marriage were born three children—Donald Eugene Walker, in 1925, Dolores June Walker, in 1930, now a student at Eastern Illinois State College, Charleston, and Patty Lou Walker, in 1935, now attending Mattoon High School. Donald Eugene Walker married Madonna Wakefield in the First Christian Church at Mattoon on September 18, 1949. He is manager of the Charleston plant of the Walker Construction Company and his wife is in the Mattoon office of the company. The family home is at Lake Mattoon, the address being Rural Route No. 2, Mattoon.

Mr. Walker is a member of the Mattoon Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the Rotary Club of Mattoon; the Mattoon Golf and Country Club and Mattoon Post, No. 88, American Legion. In World War I, Mr. Walker was attached to Company C, 325th Machine Gun Battalion, and served as a private with the American Expeditionary Forces overseas. He worships at the First Christian Church and for sport indulges in golf at the club.

He is one of those who are, literally as well as figuratively, building the home area.

WINFRED E. STEWART

A man of varied experiences who began his career in the monument business in his boyhood, later followed other interests and finally returned to his first field of activity, Winfred E. Stewart is today co-owner of Stewart Memorials, formerly the A. V. Morrison Company, at Mattoon. His partner is his brother, Medford Stewart, and together they have built their enterprise into one of the best known in its field in Coles County and the surrounding region.

Winfred E. Stewart was born at Casey, Illinois, on September 10, 1918. His parents were Bert and Rosetta Stewart, both of whom

are natives of the Casey area, the latter being the daughter of John and Ida (Abel). Bert Stewart has spent more than forty years in the retail mounment business.

After attending the elementary and high schools of Casey, Winfred Stewart became a student at Rose Polytechnic Institute in Terre Haute, Indiana. For a time, he was at Hot Springs Business College, Hot Springs, Arkansas. In his school days he played basketball for three years. When he was still in high school, he began working in the mounment business with his father. But after his health had broken down and he underwent a serious stomach operation in 1940, he spent six months with the United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, at Hot Springs. Subsequently, he was in newspaper advertising work at Muskegon, Michigan, for three years. Then he went to the West Coast and for two years, in the course of American participation in World War II, he did public relation work there. He had sought to serve the nation in its military forces in the war, but was rejected because of the stomach operation performed in 1940. In 1946, after he had returned to monument work, he and his brother, Medford, purchased the A. V. Morrison Company in Mattoon. In 1948 Stewart Memorials installed a branch display at the entrance of Glenwood Cemetery in Shelbyville, Illinois, and this year completed the purchase of the F. D. Sona Monument Company at Sullivan, Illinois, this firm having been established in 1876. Their leadership in this field has made Stewart Memorials among the best known in the territory.

On May 23, 1940, Winfred Stewart married Virginia C. Moore, the daughter of C. L. and Nellie Moore. The ceremony took place at Casey. Mrs. Stewart is active as a housewife and mother, as a church worker and as a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Mattoon and the Federated Women's Club of Mattoon. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart are the parents of two sons—Robert A. Stewart, born on December 19, 1944, and David L. Stewart, born on September 6, 1949. The family resides at Lake Mattoon and worships in the Central Community Church of Mattoon. Mr. Stewart is six feet tall, is dark and weighs 185 pounds. He is described as "very easygoing." He is a Democrat and has two hobbies: flying and photography. Among his other interests are fishing, hunting and bowling.

He is a member of the Lions Club of Mattoon, and the Mattoon Lodges, Ancient Free



WINFRED AND MEDFORD STEWART



WILLIAM EDWARD SULLIVAN

and Accepted Masons; Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and Loyal Order of Moose. With his brother, he is contributing to the business growth and general welfare of Mattoon, and to cultural feeling.

MEDFORD STEWART

Stewart Memorials have, in recent years, become an institution in Mattoon and Coles County in general. In the monument business since early manhood, Medford Stewart is, with his brother, Winfred E. Stewart, owner of the firm, Stewart Memorials, formerly the A. V. Morrison Company, of Mattoon, producing the memorials bearing his name. At one time an investigator in the Old Age Assistance Department of the State of Illinois, he was with the United States Navy in World War II. He is well known in civic organizations.

Mr. Stewart was born at Casey, Illinois, on February 3, 1914, the son of Bert and Rosetta Stewart. His father, a native of the section near Casey, has spent more than four decades in the retail monument business. Medford Stewart was educated in the grade and high schools at Casey, and did postgraduate work in business administration. He played both basketball and track for three years in high school.

In his high school days Mr. Stewart worked for his father in the monument business. Then, for a time, he was an investigator for old age assistance and subsequently an employee of Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company. Later, he was a salesman of meats for Swift and Company. But before working for this packing firm, he spent thirty-one months with the Navy, having enlisted in February, 1942. At first stationed at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Mr. Stewart was later detached for study at DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, and at Ohio State University in Columbus. After his separation from the service he worked for Swift and Company and then was manager of an electrical appliance store. In 1946 he and his brother purchased the A. V. Morrison Monument Company in Mattoon, and have since built the business into a leading institution. In 1948 Stewart Memorials installed a display at the entrance to Glenwood Cemetery in Shelbyville, Illinois, and this year completed the purchase of the F. D. Sona Monument Company, in Sullivan, Illinois, which was established in 1876.

Mr. Stewart married Virginia Isabelle Troughton, the daughter of Forrest and Ethel

Troughton, at Casey on June 21, 1942. Mrs. Stewart is active in the Evangelical United Brethren Church of Mattoon, in the Business and Professional Women's Club and the Federated Women's Club. She and Mr. Stewart have two sons—Phillip George Stewart, born on November 18, 1943, and Stephen Kent Stewart, born on March 17, 1945.

Mr. Stewart, prominent in his industry, is a member of the board of directors of the Illinois Monument Association. He is also active in the Lions Club of Mattoon; the Mattoon Lodges, Loyal Order of Moose, and Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Masonic fraternity. He also belongs to the United Brethren Church, and he votes as a Democrat. Photography is his hobby, while fishing, hunting, bowling and basketball are his favorite sports. Five feet nine and one-half inches tall, weighing 165 pounds, with dark hair, dark eyes and complexion, he is a familiar figure in Mattoon, and rapidly becoming an influential one. He and his family reside at Lake Mattoon, Mattoon.

WILLIAM EDWARD SULLIVAN

In the years that William Edward Sullivan has been president of the board of Education for District 106, comprising the City of Murphysboro, it has achieved the best school system in its history. That is the way Mr. Sullivan does things. He is a leader not only in education in the community, but in civic, fraternal and church work and his reputation in the Fraternal Order of Eagles extends to the State and national level. In his high school days the operator of a tiny "press shop," he is today the president and general manager of the Able Dry Cleaning and Dyeing Company of Murphysboro, a firm serving the entire city and well known throughout Jackson County.

Mr. Sullivan was born at Doniphan, Ripley County, Missouri, on August 20, 1897, the son of Samuel W. and Sarah (Edmonds) Sullivan, both also natives of that State. His father, a prominent farmer, served on the school board for the country schools in which the son, oldest of eight children, began his education. William Sullivan was graduated from the Doniphan High School in 1916. It was at Doniphan that he and another high school boy operated what they called the Doniphan Press Shop and this was, for Mr. Sullivan, the true beginning of a successful career, though he was not aware of it then.

In 1917 he left Doniphan to move to Mur-

physboro. At first he worked in a five-and-ten-cent store and then, for two years, he was a clerk in the Murphysboro office of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. In 1919, Mr. Sullivan bought a small press shop at 1422 Walnut Street, and this he operated until in February, 1922, he bought his present, larger establishment at 1600 Walnut Street. At the time of the move he incorporated the business as the Able Dry Cleaning and Dyeing Company, Inc., of which he has since been president and general manager. The personnel has grown from four to fourteen, and the enterprise as a whole continues to grow in prestige and volume of business.

Mr. Sullivan married Ethel Smith, the daughter of Mrs. Katherine Smith of Alto Pass, on August 13, 1934. They worship in the First Presbyterian Church of Murphysboro, both being active in its various programs. Mr. Sullivan is a member of the board of deacons.

Mr. Sullivan first became a member of the school board in 1940 and, elected again and again, he has also served as its president. He has completed a complete renovation program on the buildings and more than doubled the salaries of the teachers. He is also serving on the executive committee of the State School Board organization. A charter member of the Lions Club of Murphysboro, he has held all its offices, including the presidency. He is also past president of the Murphysboro Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and is on the order's State Outside Guard and active in the national organization. He is a former director of the Murphysboro Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and, a thirty-second-degree Mason, a Noble of Ainad Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at East St. Louis. Also, he belongs to the National Institute of Cleaners and Dyers and the Illinois Association of Cleaners and Dyers.

A man who devotes at least fifty percent of his time to public service, especially to the development of education and the welfare of children, Mr. Sullivan has earned a place for himself among the builders of Illinois.

GEORGE I. DANKS

An attorney who has practiced in Montana as well as in his native Village of Edgewood, Effingham County, and who has served in important public offices in the village and county, the Honorable George I. Danks is now

president of The First National Bank of Effingham, the county seat. He devotes himself entirely to the bank, although he continues to look after farming interests acquired early in the century. Mr. Danks has become a renowned figure in financial circles in Illinois and he has a reputation for his civic interest and activities, as well as for his leadership in the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Danks was born in Edgewood on March 18, 1847, the second oldest of the thirteen children of Joseph and Addie Danks, early settlers in Effingham County, near the village. The banker-lawyer's parents are deceased, but all his brothers and sisters survive.

Mr. Danks began his education in the public schools at Edgewood. From there he went to Austin College in Effingham and finally to Southern University at Huntington, Tennessee, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1901. That same year he established himself in the practice of law at Great Falls, Montana, where he remained until 1908. Then he returned to Edgewood to engage in law practice. At the same time he undertook the management of the extensive interests of his father-in-law, William Gillmore.

About a year before—on August 21, 1907—Mr. Danks had ridden in from Montana and at Flora, in Clay County, married Maude B. Gillmore. Her parents, William and Nancy Gillmore, are like herself and Mr. Danks, natives of Edgewood. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Danks—Doris V., now the wife of Max H. James of Vandalia, and the mother of Virginia M. James and Judith Ann James; and George G. Danks, who married Joyce V. Owston and who is in the farm implement business at Edgewood. The senior Mr. and Mrs. Danks reside at 300 East Fayette Avenue, Effingham. They worship in the Presbyterian Church of Effingham. Both are active in the church, Mr. Danks being an elder.

In 1908, after his return to his native county, Mr. Danks was elected a director of the First National Bank of Effingham. Through the years that he served on the bank's board he practiced law and achieved such leadership and influence in the community as to be elected twice as president of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Edgewood. Also, he served two terms as Master-in-Chancery of the Circuit Court of Effingham County. In 1936, Mr. Danks was elected president of the bank and he has been active



GEORGE I. DANKS



ROBERT C. SOLOMON

in that office ever since. Also since 1936 he has been a member of the board of directors of the Illinois Guarantee Savings and Loan Association of Effingham. Continuing his leadership in civic affairs, Mr. Danks has served as president of the Rotary Club of Effingham and has been master of Edgewood Lodge, No. 484, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he has a fifty-year membership. He is also active in the York and Scottish Rite bodies of the Masonic order. Politically Mr. Danks is a Democrat. Strong physically and in constant good health, Mr. Danks, despite his advance into the eighth decade of his life, is seldom absent from his desk at the bank, except when he takes his annual vacation. He is outstanding not only in his business but in his civic and public life.

ROBERT C. SOLOMON

A name long identified with leadership activities and initiative in the opening and working of new fields in Illinois, has been that of the Solomon family of Springfield, Illinois.

Robert C. Solomon, Sr., orphaned at the age of eight, was raised by strangers until he was eighteen years old. At this time, he went to work as a coal miner for the Springfield, Illinois Cooperative Coal Company. With his savings Solomon eventually bought stock in the Cooperative Mine. He and another miner later left their jobs at the Company, and went to the south side of Springfield, where they became partners and purchased a mine which they named the Black Diamond Coal Mine.

In 1900 Mr. Solomon bought out his partner. It was about then that four of his sons, Peter, George, Robert C. and Edward, joined their father in coal mining. They operated the Black Diamond Mine for four years, which they then sold to the Springfield District Coal Mining Company. This first Black Diamond Mine was located at the junction of the Wabash and Alton Railroads one mile south of Springfield. In 1904 the father and sons opened a new mine two miles south of Auburn, which they also named the Black Diamond Coal Company. The four brothers worked and managed every department of the mining company. In 1908 the Solomons bought their third mine, the Cora Coal Mine, located six miles north of Springfield. In 1911 Robert C. Solomon, Sr., died, leaving the four sons to continue operation and management of the Black Diamond and Cora Mines. In

1916 they sold their second and third mines to the Peabody Coal Company.

In 1917 the Solomons organized the Panther Creek Coal Company, thus starting its development by sinking shaft No. 1 two miles north of Auburn. In the next few years, they purchased other mines as follows: 1925, Lincoln Park Mine, which was renamed Panther Creek No. 2; 1927, Spring Creek Coal Company and the West End Coal Company mines were incorporated as Panther Creek mines No. 3 and No. 4, respectively; 1928, Springfield Cooperative Coal Company mine, the mine originally worked by Robert C. Solomon Sr., became Panther Creek Mine No. 5.

Upon the death of George W. in 1939, Robert C. Solomon became president of the Panther Creek Mining Company. He was born in Springfield on July 28, 1882, and was educated in the grade and high schools of the capital. After spending two years at the Springfield High School, he attended a business school for another two years. Mr. Solomon married Florence Larson in Springfield in 1917. Mrs. Solomon, a native of Moline, Illinois, is one of Springfield's many active women. They have three children—Florence, born in 1921, graduate of the University of Wisconsin, and now the wife of Dr. William Smiles and mother of three children; Mary Louise, born in 1927, graduate of the University of Illinois, now Mrs. John C. Kanberg and residing in Springfield; and Robert L., born in 1931, now attending the University of Illinois.

Mr. Solomon operates the Solomon Grinding Service—a somewhat related business to mining, which grinds many ores and mine minerals for use in the making of paints, cattle feeds, and mortar colors.

Mr. Solomon is active in Masonry, being a member of the Knights Templar and Shrine. He worships in the Grace Lutheran Church. He is one of the top figures in the coal industry of Central Illinois.

HARRY ODELL POPE

Member of a family which has made a contribution to Illinois life since the early part of the nineteenth century, Harry Odell Pope of DuQuoin in Perry County has in various ways maintained the family tradition of service. Formerly president of the Pope Shoe and Clothing Company, Inc., of DuQuoin, he is now operator of the H. O. Pope Agency, a real estate and insurance business in that community. For a score of years he has been a leading figure in the Boy Scout movement in

Southern Illinois and is now secretary of the DuQuoin Council, Boy Scouts of America, a unit embracing fifteen Southern Illinois counties. He has also aided development and culture and promoted the spiritual life through influential activity in the Rotary Club of DuQuoin and the Presbyterian Church. He is a charter member and former president and secretary of the Rotary Club of DuQuoin and also belongs to the Business Men's Organization of DuQuoin.

Born in DuQuoin on November 8, 1876, Mr. Pope is the son of the late Benjamin Franklin and Deborah (Dickerson) Pope. There were four other children—Dr. Rolla D. Pope, now deceased; Beulah B. Pope, also deceased; Francis E. Pope, now with the Federal Credit Corporation in Washington, D. C., and Karl D. Pope, now residing in Long Beach, California. Harry Pope was born fourth among the five children. His father, a native of Zeigler, Franklin County, moved to DuQuoin in 1856 and established the first store there. He was a Republican active in public affairs. His father was Dr. Benjamin W. Pope, also a native of Illinois, a medical man of the era of the "saddle bag doctor." Deborah Dickerson Pope, born in Ohio, was a sister of President Warren Gamaliel Harding's mother. Her family settled in Marion, Ohio, a community made famous by the Republican president and publisher.

Harry Odell Pope attended the public schools of DuQuoin and completed his education with a course at the Spencerian Business College of Washington, D. C., from which he was graduated in 1899. He then came to DuQuoin and entered the mercantile establishment founded by his father in 1856. This firm was originally called Pope and Company, but the name was later changed to the Pope Shoe and Clothing Company, Inc., and of this firm Harry Pope was president for many years. He and his brother operated it until 1937. In that year Harry Pope entered the real estate and insurance business, establishing a general agency known today as the H. O. Pope Agency. This is one of the most successful organizations in its dual field in Southern Illinois.

Mr. Pope in August, 1902, married Lily I. Painter, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Painter of DuQuoin. Her father was general agent at DuQuoin for the Illinois Central Railroad. Mrs. Pope, educated in New York state and St. Louis, has been a prominent music teacher since 1918. She now has about forty-five students. She has played the organ and the piano for the Presbyterian Church in

DuQuoin since she was twelve years old. Mr. Pope is also active in the church, of which he became a member in 1917. He is now serving on its board of elders. Gardening—especially the growing of flowers—is his hobby.

STEPHEN DEXTER DOLE

Stephen Dexter Dole was the first of his name to settle in Coles County and he was not only one of the early farmers but also the co-partner in the operation of the first grain company. Also he was one of the founders of Mattoon itself—today the biggest community in the county.

Born at Bedford, New Hampshire, on December 23, 1813, Mr. Dole was the son of Enoch and Harriett Pauline (Dexter) Dole, and moved with his family to Rossville, Ohio, in 1819, and to Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1822. He attended private schools at Terre Haute, one of them operated by Mrs. Matthew Riddle, his aunt. With his brothers he then engaged in various businesses. They took grain on flat boats down the Mississippi to New Orleans and brought back sugar.

In 1849 Stephen Dole bought his Whitley Point Farm at Mattoon, where he established his home. His sister, Sarah Ann Dole, came from Terre Haute, Indiana, to keep house for him until his marriage. This farm is still in the possession of his granddaughter, Emily Dole Oblinger, a leader in Coles County's civic and social life, whose career is described in the story of her father, Daniel Harry Oblinger, on other pages of this Illinois Edition of the Library of American Lives. A brother, Joseph Collie Dole, joined Stephen at Mattoon in 1853 and the firm of S. D. and J. C. Dole was formed. This firm bought a large tract of land northwest of the present site of Mattoon, paying the Government \$1.25 an acre. At that time the country was covered with tall prairie grass and was without fences. Under their care the farms were improved and the Dole family was known throughout this part of the country for thrift, earnestness and honor. Perhaps no name is written more often in the transferring of property and looking up abstracts than the name of "Dole".

The brothers became extensive farmers and stock raisers. During the Civil War they contracted with the Government for the use of one of their farms for the corralling of disabled war horses. This farm is still known as the Corral Farm. Stephen Dole installed scales on his farm and it became the local



STEPHEN DEXTER DOLE



DANIEL H. OBLINGER

market place for the grain and stock of his neighbors. In 1855 Mr. Dole and James M. Riddle formed the first grain company. It was known as S. D. Dole and Company. In the same year he participated in the efforts which brought Mattoon into being. In that year, too, a younger brother, Charles M. Dole, moved to Mattoon from Terre Haute. He joined his brothers in business and in 1865 became the first president of the First National Bank of Mattoon, an office he held until 1878.

The Dole brothers' two sisters, Harriet Melinda Dole, who married Allen Lush of Clinton, Indiana, and after his death George Harding of Paris, Illinois, came to Mattoon in 1868; and Sarah Ann Dole, who married William Moore Barr of Terre Haute, Indiana, located permanently in Mattoon in 1876, and had nine children, all of whom spent their entire life in the Mattoon community.

The names of Stephen and Charles Dole appear in "An Authentic Account of the Great Historical Event—the Lincoln-Douglas Debate, September 18, 1858", by S. E. Thomas. It reads in part, "Sunrise had found both Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas in Mattoon. Both the Democrats and the Republicans had planned large processions to Charleston and appointed a joint committee to have charge of the arrangements. Charles M. Dole served on the committee for the Republicans. The Republicans left Mattoon early in the morning. Mr. Lincoln did not leave Mattoon with the procession but started a short time afterwards in a carriage with James T. Cunningham, Stephen Dexter Dole and J. W. Tune. This carriage was drawn by a splendid span of cream-colored horses . . ."

Dole's Hall was completed by the Dole brothers in August, 1865. Later called Dole's Opera House, it was the scene of many festive affairs. It was Mattoon's first theater. A fire destroyed it in 1876, but it was rebuilt and afterwards sold to Mrs. Carrie Kingman. The Dole House was begun in 1868 by a stock company. Not long afterward the Doles obtained control and completed it in 1871. It was opened as the Mattoon House. For many years, under the Dole name, it was the leading hostelry in Mattoon. On December 18, 1878, the Stubbins brothers purchased the building. Today it is the Hotel Byers, having been acquired by G. W. Byers on June 1, 1913.

Stephen Dexter Dole was a charter member of Mattoon's Union Agricultural Association organized February 19, 1859. He was a life-

long member of the Coles County Board of Agriculture, serving as president for several terms. He was a vice-president at the time of his death. He was active in the Masonic order and in the Odd Fellows Lodge and worshipped in the Unitarian Church. Prominent in the Republican Party, he attended the national convention which in 1860 nominated Mr. Lincoln.

On November 23, 1853, Stephen Dexter Dole married Emily Jane (Tipton) Ogden, widow of Michael Ogden of Paris, Illinois. The wedding took place at the home of her parents, Daniel and Nancy (Orchard) Tipton, on the State Road east of the present site of Mattoon. Mrs. Ogden was living there at the time with her two children—Nancy Angeline who married Dr. William Clayton Loyd on September 15, 1861, and moved to Clinton, Missouri; and Sarah Elizabeth who became the wife of William Allen Rush of Mattoon on January 27, 1870.

To the marriage of Stephen Dexter Dole and Emily Jane Ogden were born William Collie Dole on June 18, 1854, who died in infancy; Joseph Enoch Dole on October 7, 1855, who died February 16, 1860; Mary Pauline Dole on March 20, 1857, who was married to Daniel Harry Oblinger on June 24, 1885, and became the mother of Emily Dole Oblinger, and who died on December 5, 1931; and Laura Frances Dole on April 25, 1859, who died April 31, 1944. Emily Jane Tipton Dole died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Oblinger, "Lone Elm Place", Mattoon, on December 9, 1911.

Known throughout the community as "Uncle Deck", Stephen Dexter Dole had a kindness of heart that reached all humanity. When he died at his home at Whitley Point on March 18, 1885, the following lines appeared in his obituary: "He has been honorably identified with nearly every great enterprise or undertaking in and about Mattoon and was often actuated by the motive that plants the tree that others may enjoy the fruit". He is buried on the family lot in Dodge Grove Cemetery, Mattoon.

DANIEL HARRY OBLINGER

Daniel Harry Oblinger served Mattoon and its surrounding territory as a prominent business man, civic and church leader throughout the thirty years of his life which followed the Civil War. Still much alive in the memory of old inhabitants of Coles County and in the progressive activities of the area, he forwards the family name today through the work of

his daughter, Miss Emily Dole Oblinger, one of Mattoon's outstanding women and the granddaughter of the famed Stephen Dexter Dole, a founder and builder of the community.

Daniel Harry Oblinger was born in Germantown, Ohio, on January 22, 1841, the son of Gabriel and Sarah (Haines) Oblinger. His father, born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1800, was a general merchant at Germantown to which he moved in 1825. At Germantown, Daniel Harry Oblinger obtained his schooling.

The beginning of the Civil War found him employed as a clerk in a Cincinnati drug store. He resigned this position to enlist on October 21, 1861, and he served as Hospital Steward in the 15th Regular Regiment of the United States Infantry. In charge of the medicines and the filling of prescriptions, he had the title of "Doctor" in the Army. Captured, he was held a prisoner by the Confederates at Andersonville Prison. On October 31, 1864, he received his discharge at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee.

Upon his return to civilian life, Mr. Oblinger moved to Mattoon and in September, 1866, he engaged in the drug business, his firm being Oblinger and Kemp on Broadway. The firm later became Oblinger and Weaver. Still later he sold his interest in the business to his partner, T. R. Weaver, and bought out W. R. Coppage on Western Avenue. This store burned and the drug firm of Oblinger and Coppage was formed in 1878. It continued at 18 West Broadway until Mr. Oblinger's death on March 20, 1896. Mr. Oblinger was always active in civic affairs and, at Mattoon, in the Presbyterian Church. He conducted a class of boys in the Sunday School and was a member of the Session for fifteen years. At Germantown, he joined the United Brethren Church. In politics he was a Republican. Travel and good music were his favorite recreations.

Mr. Oblinger married Jennie Lanning of Dayton, Ohio, on January 19, 1867. She died September 27, 1880. On June 24, 1885, he married Mary Pauline Dole, daughter of Stephen Dexter and Emily Jane (Tipton) Dole at their country home at Whitley Point, northwest of Mattoon. The story of the Dole family and its great contribution to the development of Coles County is told under Mr. Dole's name in another section of this Illinois Edition of the Library of American Lives.

Miss Emily Dole Oblinger, born at the family home, "Lone Elm Place", is the daughter

of this marriage. A graduate of Mattoon High School and National Park Seminary, Forest Glen, Maryland, Miss Oblinger helped organize the Governor Edward Coles Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and was its organizing regent and later regent. She is also a charter member of the Mattoon Historical Society, a member of the Mattoon Federated Woman's Club, the Mattoon Study Class and the Presbyterian Church of Mattoon.

Daniel Harry Oblinger died at his home on March 20, 1896, and was buried in the family lot in Dodge Grove Cemetery, Mattoon. His wife died December 5, 1931. It was written of him, "He was energetic, intelligent and honorable. He lived as one who loved his God and his fellow men. His duties to his family, his business and his church occupied his time and attention. He was kind and sympathetic, a man who made the world better for his living in it. . . ."

THE LONE ELM

This historic tree is situated in the northeast corner of the lawn at the home of Miss Emily Dole Oblinger. Her parents Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Harry Oblinger purchased the property in 1887.

The elm received its name from the fact that it stood as a lonely sentinel on the vast prairie, guiding the early emigrants on their trek westward, long before the coming of the railroads and the founding of Mattoon. The prairie road extended northwest to the Decatur, Springfield and Peoria settlements, crossing the present site of Mattoon, near the Lone Elm. There are many interesting legends connected with the tree.

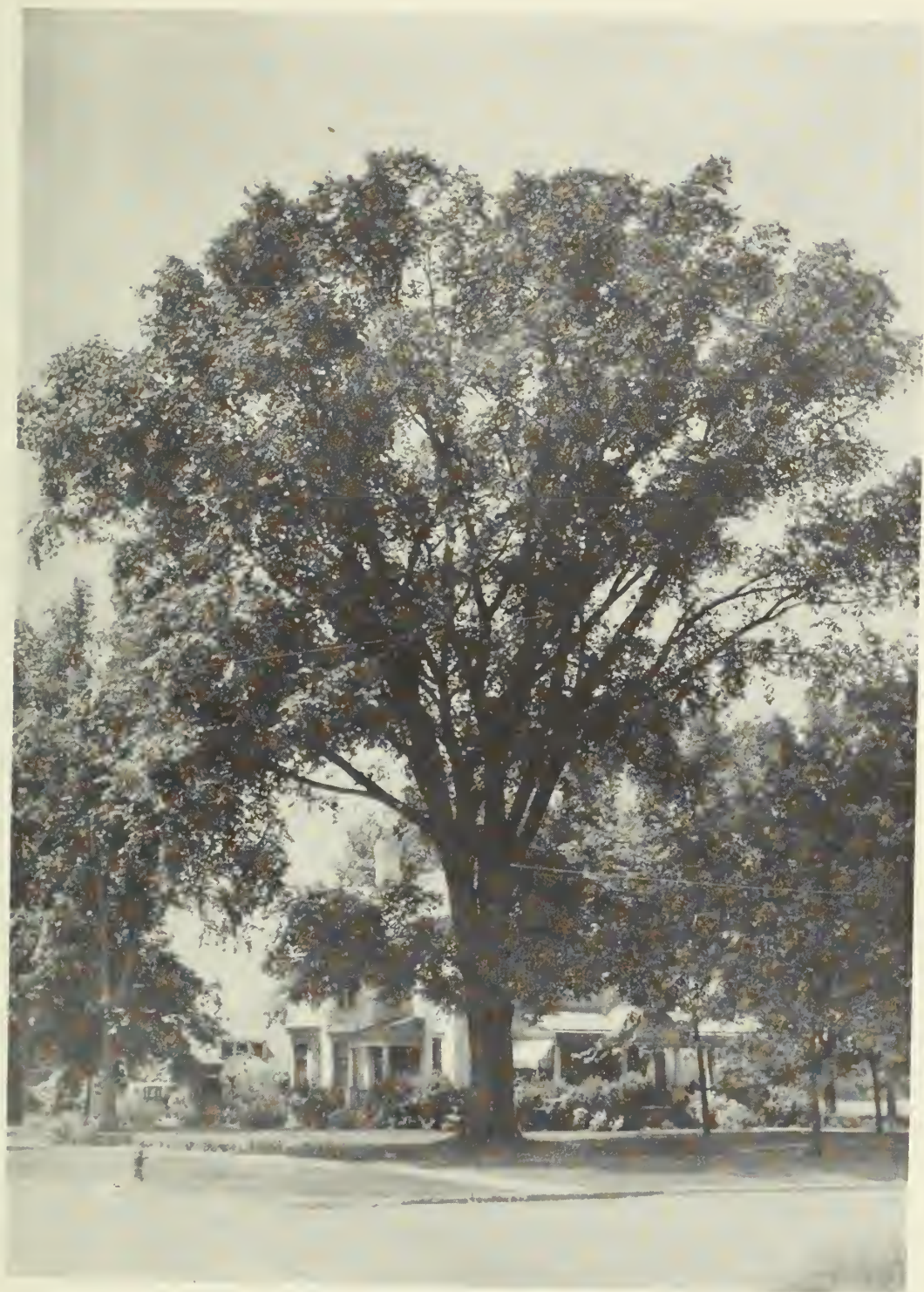
On May 26, 1934, the Governor Edward Coles Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution marked it with a bronze tablet. The marker is mounted on a native, glacier boulder and bears the following inscription:

"The Lone Elm
used as a land mark
by the pioneers
in crossing the prairie"

The Lone Elm is threatened with phloem necrosis, the deadly elm disease, that is spreading over the country. Everything possible has been done to save it.

JAMES W. McGRATH

In a large portion of Illinois the name of McGrath has come to stand for extraordinary



THE LONE ELM

achievement in the commercial and industrial world and in the field of social forces, labor relations and cultural activities. This achievement has come through the McGrath Sand and Gravel Company, headquartered at Lincoln—a business conducted with a human philosophy which has attracted much attention from other business men and the public at large.

The McGrath Sand and Gravel Company was founded in Lincoln in 1907, by Patrick L. McGrath and his two sons, James W. and T. E. McGrath. Today the McGrath brothers are outstanding citizens of the state, J. W. McGrath is president of the business, while his brother, T. E. McGrath, is vice president. The mother of these two men was Harriet (Snyder) McGrath.

In the first four years of the business, the McGrath brothers worked long hours and drew only \$400 in salary, each, per year. Their average monthly salary in the following four years was \$118 a month, each. Twelve years after the business was established, the salaries were advanced to \$250 a month. "The policy of the McGrath organization," says a McGrath statement, "is based on common sense and fairness. This is not a one-man company. It has been built for the future, not around one man or a small group of men." In its public statements, the company is unusually frank concerning its "inside workings," often kept secret by other business men. The concern has had various names in the course of its near half-century of existence. In 1910 its name was The Hydraulic Sand and Gravel Company. Then, for a time, it was McGrath Brothers Sand and Gravel Company and finally the present style, McGrath Sand and Gravel Company, was adopted. Besides its headquarters at Lincoln, established in 1907, the company has plants at Mackinaw, established 1910; Chillicothe, established in 1914; Pekin, established in 1917; Foreston, established in 1920, and Bloomington, established in 1938. There have also been other plants, but these have been abandoned.

Besides being president of the McGrath Sand and Gravel Company, Mr. McGrath is a director of the Lincoln Savings and Loan Association, the Central Illinois Electric and Gas Company and the Logan County Fair Association. The fair is one of the means of his voluntary public service. He is chairman of War Bond or Savings Bond drives in Logan County and of the Logan County Aid Association. In heading his big company, Mr. McGrath has helped make it a leader in the

sand and gravel industry in Illinois and in the Middle West. He has also helped promote honest industry and thrift among labor as well as management and to elevate standards of living in all the areas in which plants are located.

CLARENCE SYLVESTER BUCHER, D.V.M., M.D., F.A.C.A.

It is not unlikely that Dr. Clarence Sylvester Bucher of Champaign—operator of the famed Bucher Clinic in that city—is the only man, or certainly one of the few men, who ever worked as a veterinary surgeon while studying to become physician and surgeon to human beings. It was necessary for him to do this work for he had to work his way through college, and the histories of men who have been both veterinarians and medical doctors have proved that the one form of medical practice has been invaluable in the development of skill in the other.

Dr. Bucher was born in Lucas County, Ohio, on November 26, 1881, the son of Benjamin and Mariah (Sherer) Bucher. Of Swiss parentage, his father was also born in Ohio. He was both farmer and Mennonite minister. The mother was born at Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio.

Dr. Bucher began his education at Whitehouse. He studied veterinary surgery at McKillep Veterinary College and in 1908 received the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. After graduation he was employed by the United States Government and went to the Philippine Islands as a veterinarian. It was about this time that he resolved to become a physician and surgeon and in pursuance of that ambition he returned to Chicago where he was employed as a veterinarian in the Chicago Stock Yards, thus enabling him to defray the expenses of his medical education. He entered Loyola University as a student and in 1915 was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine. In the next two years he was an intern at the Jefferson Park Hospital. In August, 1917, he became associated in practice with the late Dr. S. W. Shartz. It was in 1921 that he established the now so highly regarded Bucher Clinic.

Dr. Bucher married Sophie H. Fraas at Archbold, Ohio, in November, 1909. Dr. and Mrs. Bucher have two children—Helen Marie, born on June 11, 1912, who majored in music, piano and organ at the University of Illinois and is now associated with her father as secretary at the Bucher Clinic; and Richard C. Bucher, born on September 18, 1923. Rich-

ard C. Bucher volunteered in the Navy in World War II and was transferred to the Marine Corps as pharmacist mate. He served with the Fourth Marines in the invasion of Guam on July 24, 1944, and encountered a serious wound by a bullet passing from right to left cheek, removing his left eye, which resulted in severe skull fractures and excessive hemorrhage. In spite of this he continued giving aid to the wounded until he collapsed. For his sacrifices and service beyond duty, he received the highest honor given by the United States Navy—the Navy Cross.

Dr. and Mrs. Bucher and their family reside at 308 West White Street, Champaign, and worship in the Episcopal Church.

Dr. Bucher is a member of the American Medical Association; the Illinois Medical Association; the Champaign Medical Society; Western Star Lodge No. 240 Free and Accepted Masons, of which he is a past Master; the Consistory at Danville; and is past president of the Champaign-Urbana High 12 Club. He is a popular figure in these organizations as well as in the community at large.

DELOS LLOYD HUXTABLE

The start of Delos Lloyd Huxtable's career was on the driver's seat of an ice company's horse-drawn delivery wagon. The place was Champaign. The year was 1911, when Mr. Huxtable was twenty years old. Today Mr. Huxtable is general manager of the ice cream division of the Champaign Beatrice Foods Company. He is former president of the Champaign School Board and is a leader in civic and business organizations, in welfare and recreational movements, in educational work and in the Methodist church, not to mention the Masonic world.

Mr. Huxtable was born at Benson, Woodford County, on April 26, 1891, the son of James F. and Nora (Peterson) Huxtable. His father, also a native of Benson, was a member of a family which originated in Barnstable, England. His parents came over from England in a sailing vessel, accompanied by six children also born in that country. They were to have ten more children, all born in the New World. At first the family lived in Quebec, but finally settled at Benson, establishing farms and other businesses. James F. Huxtable operated a general merchandise store and a grain elevator besides farms. Nora Peterson Huxtable was the daughter of Samuel Peterson, one of seven children. One of these children, born in 1858, is still living. Of the sixteen Huxtable children fifteen sur-

vived to "ripe old age," seven of them celebrating golden wedding anniversaries. Of the two still alive, one celebrated a ninety-fourth birthday, the other an eighty-fourth, in 1949.

Delos Huxtable was graduated from the Paxton High School in 1911 and immediately went into the ice cream business, driving a horse and wagon for what was then called the Champaign Ice Company, located at Fifth and University Streets. This is the site of the milk division of the Champaign Beatrice Foods Company today. By 1913, when a new plant was erected for the Champaign Ice Company at 115-117 East University Street, Mr. Huxtable was president of the concern. In 1929, he sold the business to the Beatrice Foods Company, and since then has been general manager of the ice cream division, his territory embracing Champaign, Paxton, Danville and Paris. The plant, recently remodeled, now is large enough to require four street entrances—113, 115, 117 and 119 East University Street.

One of the prominent women of Champaign is Mr. Huxtable's wife, the former Ruth M. Kisner, daughter of James and Katie Kisner. They were married in Champaign on April 24, 1912. Asked to describe her activities, Mrs. Huxtable says, "Keeping up with a man like Mr. Huxtable, and keeping pace with my family—three children—and now with my grandchildren has been real work." However, Mrs. Huxtable has found time and had the energy to become a leading citizen of the community in her own right. She is past worthy matron of Vesper Chapter, No. 128, Order of the Eastern Star, and was teacher of the third grade boys in the Sunday School of the First Methodist Church of Champaign, in which she continues active. Also, she was treasurer of the Parent-Teachers Association and president of her Wheel for one year (1926). For one year, too, she was secretary of the Mother's Club of the University of Illinois and president of the Mothers' Club of her son's fraternity, Alpha Kappa Lambda. The son, youngest of the children, is Delos Dean Huxtable, granted a degree of Bachelor of Science in Dairy Technology by the university, now sales manager and accounting director of his father's company. He is unmarried and lives at the Huxtable home, 510 West Clark Street, Champaign. There are also two daughters—Kathryn, now Mrs. John E. McMahon and mother of John Delos, Elizabeth Ruth and Patricia Dean McMahon; and Jeannette, now Mrs. John P. Messinger and mother of Linda Lou



DELOS LLOYD HUXTABLE



CLARENCE W. BELL



MRS. LUCLEDA LAMBERT BELL

Messinger. Both daughters are also Illinois graduates.

Mr. Huxtable has been a member of the First Methodist Church since 1912. For twenty-five years until illness forced his relaxing somewhat he was on the official board and for eighteen years was a trustee. The son has taken his place on the official board. The elder Mr. Huxtable served for nineteen years on the Champaign Board of Education, his last three as president; for twelve years he was chairman of the building and grounds committee. Champaign's Mayor appointed him to the post-war planning board and he has also served as chairman for the revolving fund for the Champaign Commercial Bank. He was president of the Champaign Chamber of Commerce in 1923 and of the American Travelers Protective Association in 1920. For one year he was president of the Illinois Ice Cream Association and for many years was dean of the members of the McKinley Young Men's Christian Association. He was also, for six years, on the University Young Men's Christian Association board and for five years served on the Champaign Recreational Board. Prominent in Masonry, he was commander of the Knights Templar Commandery No. 68 in 1928, and is also active in the Royal Arch and Scottish Rite and the Order of the Eastern Star. He is also a Rotarian and an Elk. As a hobby he maintains the farms once owned by his maternal grandfather. He is one of Champaign's best informed men and one of the sincerest workers on behalf of the public welfare.

CLARENCE WILLIAM BELL

On February 1, 1950, Clarence William Bell of Mattoon celebrated his seventy-second birthday. On that day he looked back and observed the numerous experiences of his life—he had ridden on ox wagons, buck boards, old time sleighs, bob sleds, buggies, surreys, farm wagons, stage coaches, trains, horses, farm machinery, trucks, automobiles and other vehicles—and always avoided the airplane; he had farmed, he had operated a florist business, he had built ditches with a strange piece of apparatus known to old timers as the "mole ditcher" and he had written and lectured. He had, too, become an authority on Abraham Lincoln. He is still a farmer, owning two farms, and he has been one of those citizens on whom the community has called again and again not only for advice but for leadership.

Mr. Bell was born on February 1, 1878, on a farm three miles southwest of Mattoon in Coles County. Space is too scarce here to tell every detail of his long and eventful life, but the highlights will be presented. His father was William Andrew Bell, born in Coles County on October 2, 1853, who died on February 8, 1920. He began as a poor boy, and died a large landowner and wealthy man. The mother was Lily Ellen Linder, daughter of Elisha and Rebecca Linder and Grandniece of Sarah Bush, the stepmother of Abraham Lincoln. Lily Ellen Bell, born August 3, 1854, was a school teacher. She died on June 7, 1943.

Clarence Bell first attended the Wabash and Linder country schools in Mattoon Township. Afterward, he went to Mattoon High School and Professor D. W. DeLays' Mattoon Business College. A grandnephew of Abraham Lincoln's stepmother, he studied Lincoln's life, and became a lecturer and writer on the great President and his family. In 1950 Mr. Bell was completing a book on his ancestors and the Lincolns.

After finishing school, Mr. Bell continued on the farm with his father. For several years they were in the stock business, buying and selling cattle, hogs and sheep. Renting the farms, they built graineries and bought wheat, oats and corn. The farm rents and grainery operations made the family wealthy. When the father died in 1920, the estate was divided three ways—among the mother, Clarence Bell and his sister. Mr. Bell then learned the florist business, and for fifteen years followed that field, in the meantime writing and lecturing. When the oil boom struck Mattoon, he retired from business and now looks after his farms. On one of his farms, located two miles southwest of Mattoon, two big oil wells pumped Mr. Bell many thousands of dollars. Another of his farms is two miles west of Mattoon. Both farms are well improved and profitable. He also owns timberland, his own house and three lots at 3217 Marshall Avenue, Mattoon.

In this house he lives with his wife, the former Lucleda Lambert of Mattoon, daughter of William H. and Sarah Hannah (Kennedy) Lambert. They were married at Effingham on May 27, 1927. Mrs. Bell is active in many church, historical, women's and other organizations and is an expert florist. She and Mr. Bell worship in the Methodist Church of Coles County. Mr. Bell, who has held many important offices in the church, is now an

honorary steward and vice president of the Sunday School class.

A lifelong Republican, Mr. Bell has served his community as precinct committeeman, clerk of the election board and as Republican judge of the election board. He is a member of the Lincoln National Memorial Highway, the Mattoon Historical Society, the Illinois State Historical Society, the Coles County Farm Bureau and the Mattoon Association of Commerce. He is Commissioner of the Little Wabash Drainage District and of the Majors Drainage District and is treasurer of the Union Drainage District of Coles and Moultrie Counties. Mr. Bell is a collector of all kinds of antiques—skeltons of Kickapoo Indians, rare and old foreign coins, American and foreign postage stamps and old books. Among his possessions, besides the Indian skeletons, is a sledgehammer from the Hodgedon Mill in Kentucky, dating to 1825 and a handbill of the play "Our American Cousin," which President Lincoln was viewing at the time he was shot by the actor Booth. Mr. Bell also likes to travel and to attend good football games. He is accounted one of the major citizens of Central and Southeast Illinois.

JOHN FLOYD McCORMICK

"McCormick's . . . Jewelry . . . Diamonds," flashing in neon or more modestly announced in daytime, is a familiar spectacle to the residents of Champaign and Urbana and its owner, John Floyd McCormick, is as familiar a figure in the community. He is not only a leading business man but well known in the Republican Party in Champaign County as well as in the radio broadcasting industry to which he brought "Scan-o-Rama," based on an idea he developed. He not only sells jewelry but gift items of a miscellaneous character and typewriters. Throughout his career he has faced adversity and one of the worst he has overcome was a fire that caused considerable damage to his business in August, 1947. But an even-tempered individual, he has won over this handicap, as he has many others.

John Floyd McCormick was born on January 3, 1906, in Stanton Township, Champaign County, the son of Charles Albert McCormick, a farmer also born in that county, and Ella Frances (Clark) McCormick. He spent seven years at the Hunt School, in the rural district in which he was born, one year at Thornburn Junior High and two years at Urbana High School. This education he later supplemented with several home-study courses.

Mr. McCormick worked on the family farm

until he left it in 1921 at the age of fifteen. That summer he worked as a cement finisher on the first concrete road running north out of Urbana. Later, he entered the employ of Levitt's Manufacturing Company, where he remained until 1925 when he accepted an apprenticeship in typewriter repair work. After seven years, he was made assistant manager of the firm, with which he remained until November, 1936. At that time he signed a contract with the Royal Typewriter Company to be its representative in Champaign and Douglas Counties. When he began the business he also undertook the handling of office equipment. His business prospered until typewriters and allied equipment were frozen in World War II. Having also lost two employees to the armed forces, he sought a sideline to help carry the overhead. He now brought his attention to bear on an idea previously conceived for scheduling program time in radio broadcasting stations. On a gamble, he bought the equipment necessary to produce what he now calls "Scan-o-Rama" and in May, 1942, he showed this system at the convention of the National Association of Broadcasters in Cleveland, Ohio. It was hailed as a forward step in broadcasting and Mr. McCormick received \$9,000 worth of orders in one day. In 1949 about twenty-five stations were using the McCormick system and he was planning to continue its manufacture. Since May, 1943, he has been in the jewelry business, in which he has since specialized.

Mr. McCormick married Lavinnia Pearl Logan, daughter of Henry and Anna Logan, in Danville on November 21, 1924, and they have two daughters, Joanne Eloise and Betty Louise. The latter is married to James Jay Johnson and is the mother of John Henri Johnson.

A Republican leader, Mr. McCormick is one of those who helped entertain Senator Taft when he visited Central Illinois in the 1948 presidential campaign. He is a member of the American Diamond Guild, various Masonic bodies, including the Shrine; the United Commercial Travelers and Illini Shrine Club, in which he is a director; Champaign Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks; Sad Sac No. 11, elite division of Amvets in Champaign County, in which he has an honorary membership though he is not a veteran, an indication of his standing in the community. He is a former member and secretary of the official board of the First Congregational Church of Urbana. His business is at 312 North Hickory, Champaign; his home at 1303 West Hill.



JOHN FLOYD McCORMICK



CARL NICOLAI HANSEN

"Trustworthy, reserved . . . well liked by employees, customers and fellow business men." So he is described.

CARL NICOLAI HANSEN

A business man who has made his contribution toward growth and welfare in Central Illinois through a vital field—food—is Carl Nicolai Hansen of Champaign. Mr. Hansen is vice-president of the Beatrice Food Company, with headquarters in Champaign. His activities in the community are channeled, otherwise, mainly through the fraternal and civic organizations to which he belongs. He was in the military service in World War I.

Carl Nicolai Hansen was born in Denmark on March 9, 1894. His parents were Jorgen Frederick Hansen and Kirstine Rasmie (Ibsen) Hansen. His father, born in Denmark on February 11, 1867, was a merchant who made two trips to the United States—one in 1928, the other in 1934. He served in the Danish Army and in the Danish State Police.

The son came to the United States at an early age, and was educated in elementary and dairy schools in Illinois. He served an apprenticeship as a creamery man with the Beatrice Food Company in Champaign, Mr. Hansen has risen from superintendent to vice-president. In between he held the posts of manager and district manager. To him is attributed much of the present success of this great firm.

On June 11, 1919, Mr. Hansen married Bessie Andersen, the daughter of George and Carolyn Andersen. Mrs. Hansen is active in the Lutheran Church in Champaign. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hansen—Carl F. Hansen, whose wife is Carmen and who is the father of Carmen and Frederica Hansen; George K. Hansen, whose wife is Anne and who is the father of Carolyn and Constance Hansen; Delbert E. Hansen, whose wife is Loretta and who is the father of James Earl Hansen, and Joyce C. Hansen. The family home is at 807 West Green Street, Champaign.

Mr. Hansen's memberships are in the Champaign Lodges of the Loyal Order of Moose and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Rotary Club of Champaign. He served in the 839th Aero Squadron in World War I, from 1917 to 1918. He is a Republican and his favorite sports are bowling and golf, chiefly the former.

Mr. Hansen has forged his way to a leading place among Champaign's business men

by dint of sound training and sound business acumen.

JOSEPH EDWARD COOK, SR.

There are innumerable old timers among the baseball fans today, many living in Illinois and the others spread out all over the nation, who remember Joseph Edward Cook of Peoria when he was a member of the Chicago Cubs. Many more, of course, know the contribution Mr. Cook has been making to the state and the automobile industry since 1917 as a dealer who, though perhaps not a pioneer among automobile dealers, was certainly active early in the field. He is the owner of the Cook Motor Company, Ford Dealer on Main Street, Peoria, and is also well known as a marksman with the rifle and his other recreational interests chiefly, however, Skeet Shooting.

Mr. Cook was born in Texarkana, Arkansas, on July 17, 1888, the son of Joseph Edward and Mary Agnes (Young) Cook. His father, a lawyer, was a native of Arkansas, while his mother was a native of Virginia. Both parents are deceased. The future baseball player, engineer, and automobile dealer was educated in the grade and high schools of his native Texarkana and at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, where he majored in engineering. Because of an outstanding record in athletics, especially baseball at the university, he accepted an offer from the big leagues, playing baseball professionally for three seasons, two of them with the Chicago Cubs.

Giving up professional baseball, he returned to his profession, engineering, where in Peoria he accepted a position as construction engineer with the Peoria & Pekin Union Railroad, building the present bridge across the Illinois River. After several years in Electrical Engineering, he established himself in the automobile business as a dealer in 1917. He handled such cars as the Allen, Auburn, Columbia, Jordan and Franklin—which are no longer on the market. In 1934, he obtained the Ford Franchise and has been a Ford Dealer ever since, operating as the Cook Motor Company. His is one of the best known dealerships in Central Illinois.

Mr. Cook married Eleanor MacLay Fisher of Peoria in that city on September 18, 1912. Mrs. Cook's parents, both of whom are now also deceased, were Joseph Eugene Frye Fisher, born in Peoria and head of the Chas. Fisher & Co. Drug Firms, and Harriet MacLay Fisher, who was a native of Delaven, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Cook are the parents of a son

and daughter. The son, Capt. Joseph Edward Cook, Jr., was born on May 8, 1915, and married Katherine Schmoeger of Peoria and they have a son, John Maclay Cook. Harriet Maclay Cook, the daughter was born on August 23, 1916 and is now the wife of Charles W. Ringel and the mother of two daughters, Kathryn and Margaret Ringel. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Cook, Sr., reside at 112 Parkside Drive, Peoria, Illinois.

Mr. Cook is an elder in the First Presbyterian Church, a member of the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association, The National Automobile Dealers Association, The University Club of Peoria, The Peoria Association of Commerce, The National Skeet Shooting Association, The Illinois Skeet Shooting Association and past president of the Peoria Skeet & Gun Club. Hunting and fishing are his other recreational interests. He is one of Peoria's most popular citizens.

VIRGIL IVAN DODSON

A professional engineer and land surveyor nearly all of his working life, Virgil Ivan Dodson has taken the opportunity through the years to serve his city and the Federal government in important waterways, drainage, highway, street and sewer programs. At present practicing as a consulting engineer, he is giving the City of Mattoon much of his time especially in connection with a sewer survey. In World War II he served in a military capacity on flood patrol duty. He has held office as City Engineer and Building Inspector in Mattoon and as a member of the Mattoon Board of Education, and he has also served on the Mattoon Health Council and in other civic capacities.

Born at Quincy, Ohio, on September 5, 1907, Mr. Dodson is the son of John Wesley Dodson, a native also of Quincy, and Nettie Mae (Bothel) Dodson. Mr. Dodson attended rural school and high school at Newark Valley, New York, and the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy at Rolla. From the Missouri institution he received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1933. In his student days he was active in the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Today he is a Registered Land Surveyor of Illinois, holding registration number 1340, and a Professional Engineer of Illinois, number 488.

Mr. Dodson began his technical career in April, 1934, when he was appointed a rodman on construction surveys for river construction in the office of the Corps of Engineers, United

States Army, St. Joseph, Missouri. He remained there until October, 1934, when he was transferred as sub-inspector to Fort Peck, Montana, where he worked on dredging surveys and materials inspection. From February, 1935, to May, 1935, Mr. Dodson was a rodman on dredge surveys at Jefferson City, Missouri, and from May, 1935, to June, 1936, he worked as dump inspector, dredging inspector and instrumentman at Detroit, Michigan. Continuing to move about as civilian employee of the Corps of Engineers, he worked at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from June, 1936, to October, 1937, as inspector on hydraulic and dipper dredge work; from the latter date to July, 1938, he was an inspector on dike construction and dredging work and instrument man on levee survey work at St. Louis, Missouri, and from July, 1938, to March, 1939, at the same location, he was assigned to work as dredge surveyman in charge of laying out dredging work from plats furnished by the Corps and other important duties.

Resigning from the Corps of Engineers in March, 1939, Mr. Dodson became Assistant Engineer to W. Ed. Millar, Consulting Engineer, of Mattoon. In this capacity Mr. Dodson was in charge of field work for drainage district improvements, highway improvements and improvements of city streets and sewers. In the time he was not employed in the field he spent in the office on design of drainage facilities for farm land and city property, writing specifications and design for highway and street improvements. In March, 1941, Mr. Dodson was promoted to Associate Engineer to Mr. Millar, and was given general charge of work including survey, design and construction. This included the construction of an interceptor sewer system for the City of Mattoon, the design and/or construction of drainage district improvements of a value of \$240,000 and fifteen miles of highway improvements. On January 1, 1945, Mr. Dodson purchased the business of Mr. Millar and since that time has been a Consulting Engineer on his own. His present work is of the same character as when he was the associate of Mr. Millar except that it has increased in volume. The major project he has undertaken in the time since he bought the business from Mr. Millar has been the Mattoon sewer survey, and this survey has been followed by the design of separate sewers for portions of the town, where the need is the greatest. His force of assistants has grown from two part-time employees to one Registered Engineer,



VIRGIL IVAN DODSON



HON. HORACE EDWARD CHAMPION

three trained men and a secretary on full time. His reputation as an engineer has spread into many parts of the State. A member of the Illinois State Militia in World War II, he held the rank of Corporal and in the Spring of 1944 was on flood patrol duty.

Mr. Dodson married Virginia Page Redding, daughter of Raymond Gregg and Helen (North) Redding, on December 24, 1936. Mrs. Dodson is active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Parent-Teachers Association and the Presbyterian Church Circle No. 4. There are three children—Robert Gregg, born March 10, 1939; John Page, born June 6, 1942, died July 8, 1944; and Virginia Diane, born November 5, 1946. The family home is on Western Avenue, Mattoon. All worship in the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Dodson was City Engineer and Building Inspector of Mattoon from 1946 to 1947. For three months in 1948, prior to its reorganization, he served on the school board. In 1949 he was chairman of the school environment committee of the Mattoon Health Council. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias; the Kiwanis Club of Mattoon, serving as the club's chairman of the agriculture and conservation committee in 1949, and the Mattoon Association of Commerce. Aside from solving complicated engineering problems, Mr. Dodson likes home motion pictures as well as stills, and also baseball, football and basketball. From the record it is obvious that Mr. Dodson must be included among those who are doing their utmost to forward progress in Coles County.

WALTER C. PETERS

For many years in the banking business, Walter C. Peters is applying his knowledge and talents to the responsible task of chief clerk, business manager and purchasing agent for the Kankakee State Hospital at Kankakee. Well known among institutional executives, he is also prominent in the civic and social life of Kankakee County.

Mr. Peters was born in Champaign County and lived in that county until he received his first appointment at Kankakee State Hospital in 1934. He received his early education in the elementary and high schools of Urbana, the county seat, and, following his graduation from the Urbana High School, entered Eureka College at Eureka, in Woodford County. When he left College, Mr. Peters went into the grain and lumber business. After a few years in this field, he became a banker. For twenty years he was with the bank at Saint

Joseph, Champaign County, and at the time he resigned to accept a State of Illinois appointment was cashier of that financial organization. Mr. Peters' first appointment, in 1934, at Kankakee State Hospital was as accountant. Two years later he was promoted to his present position as chief clerk, business manager and purchasing agent. He has served under both Dr. George W. Morrow, recently retired superintendent, and Dr. Ernest S. Klein, the present superintendent.

On June 5, 1912, Mr. Peters married Fern Messenger, a native of Peoria. They have a son and daughter. The son, Walter Russell Peters, took the degree of Bachelor of Science at the University of Illinois in 1935 and is now an auditor for the State of Illinois. The daughter, Margaret Ann Peters, was graduated from the University of Illinois with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1938. Three years later she won the degree of Master of Arts at the university and is at present (1950) working on her Doctor of Philosophy degree. She is a teacher in the high school at Pana, in Christian County.

Mr. Peters is active in the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce and in the Masonic fraternity, in which he holds the thirty-second degree. He is a former member of the Exchange Club. In helping develop and maintain the Kankakee State Hospital, Mr. Peters is rendering important service in an important field.

HON. HORACE EDWARD CHAMPION

Farmer and livestock breeder, the Honorable Horace Edward Champion of Mattoon has managed, in a busy life, to give leadership not only to agricultural activities in Coles County but also to educational, hospital, cemetery and drainage developments, to church work and to general citizenship. He is one of the best known and most popular personalities in his section of the state.

Mr. Champion was born in Mattoon on May 19, 1892, the son of the Reverend Edward David and Martha Eliza (Fulton) Champion. His father, a Methodist minister and farmer, was born on August 3, 1860, and died on September 16, 1949. His parents came to Illinois from North Carolina in 1823. Martha Champion, born on August 19, 1861, died on December 16, 1942. A native of Adams County, Ohio, she was the daughter of Thomas Dorsey and Emily E. Fulton. She and the Reverend Mr. Champion were married at Pontiac, Illinois, on June 15, 1881. Five generations of the family have lived in the pres-

ent area within two miles of each other. Four generations have lived on the present farm, and Horace Edward Champion and his wife are living in the very house in which he was born. He has lived there every moment of his life, except for the period when he was away at college.

Mr. Champion's education began in the public schools of Mattoon and continued at DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, where he spent three years. When he was at Mattoon High School, he was active in oratorical activities, and won first prize in the high school district oratorical contest in 1910. From 1910 to 1913 he was a member of the Darsee Club at DePauw; this is now Lambda Chi Alpha. Except for the schooling period, Mr. Champion has devoted himself to agriculture. He farms 480 acres and manages and assists in the management of 375 more acres of family estates in Moultrie and Coles Counties. His own farm lands are in Coles County, southwest of Mattoon, and his address is R. F. D. No. 2, Mattoon. He specializes in grain and in cattle and hogs, and he has been exceptionally successful, winning not only affluence but influence and popularity.

On August 5, 1914, at Mattoon, Mr. Champion married Mary D. Williams, a native of that city and daughter of Dr. W. W. Williams (1845-1913) and Alice (Dearborn) Williams (1863-1920). Mrs. Champion is also prominent. She is president of the East Mattoon Home Bureau Unit; member of the Tuesday Study Club, the Women's Society of Christian Service of the First Methodist Church of Mattoon and the Mattoon Historical Society, of which she is a director. Mr. and Mrs. Champion have three children: William David Champion, born 1925, who in 1945 married Marbelle June Whitley, born 1926, and has one son, William David Champion, born 1947; Martha Alice, born 1927, who in 1946 was married to Albert Leo Nelson, born 1924, and is the mother of Darwyn Eugene Nelson, born 1946, and Bonnie Lu Nelson, born 1949; John Richard Champion, born 1928, who in 1947 married Emma Catherine Black, born 1929, and is the father of Kenneth Edward Champion, born 1948, and Carol Ann Champion, born 1950.

Horace E. Champion is chairman of the official board and secretary of the board of trustees of the First Methodist Church, and also teaches in the Sunday School and serves on the Sunday School board. He is a commissioner of the Major Drainage District, a trustee of the Camp Ground Cemetery, has

been on the board of trustees of the Mattoon Township since 1942 and for eight years also served on the Methodist Memorial Hospital board of trustees. Mr. Champion has served as secretary and president of these groups. In addition, he has been a director, treasurer, secretary and vice-president of the Rotary Club of Mattoon and a member of the Coles County Farm Bureau and the Mattoon Historical Society. He is a Republican. Generous of his time and possessions, Mr. Champion has made his life along the lines of the slogan, "Service above self," and in consequence this five-foot-seven-inch, gray-haired 135-pounder has assumed a position of great leadership in the community.

MARION SYLVESTER CLESSON

The Clessons have lived in Illinois since 1835 and have made themselves prominent in virtually every field of endeavor. An outstanding member of the family is Marion Sylvester Clesson of Decatur, a plumbing contractor and stock farmer whose reputation for wise counsel in civic affairs, interest in urban and rural development and general integrity is widespread.

Born in a log house at Sylvian, eight miles south of Shelbyville, Mr. Clesson is the son of James O. and Rebecca Jane (Waton) Clesson. His father, a native of Shelbyville, was a building contractor and cabinet maker. His parents were Samuel and Mahetable (Stebbins) Clesson, both of whom died on July 3, 1855, in a cholera plague, leaving three small sons who were reared by aunts and uncles. Samuel Clesson was born August 26, 1815, in Massachusetts, and came to Illinois in 1835. His wife was born on October 17, 1817. Marion Clesson's maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Waton, the former a cooper, came to Illinois from Ohio in a covered wagon and settled near Shelbyville.

The future plumbing contractor, whose own birth occurred on October 8, 1898, completed his academic education at normal school. For six years he was an apprentice at Bloomington, and afterward served as a journeyman plumber in Decatur about eight years. In 1928 he took his Master Plumber's degree and launched his business in his home. Several years later he built a supply house on his back lot, and this he used for his office also. After eight years, he bought the building he now occupies at 235 South Main Street, in Decatur, and from this center he has built a business of ever-growing proportions and won



MARION SYLVESTER CLESSON



JAMES RAY LIVESAY

tremendous prestige for himself in the community and county.

On October 14, 1922, Mr. Clesson married Gertrude Albers, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs Albers of Delavan, the ceremony taking place in Decatur. Mrs. Clesson, who has been Mr. Clesson's partner in business, is a Graduate Nurse. She finds her favorite recreation in horseback riding. By strange coincidence Mr. and Mrs. Clesson celebrate their birthdays on the same day—October 8. The coincidence stretches back to their respective mothers, both of whom were born on September 6. The Clessons worship in Grace Methodist Church, Decatur, in which Mrs. Clesson is a unit leader, teacher in the Sunday School and a charter member of the L.W.B.A.

Mr. Clesson has himself been greatly active in the community life of Decatur and he established a far-famed baseball team known as the "Clesson Plumbers," in the Decatur Independent League. This team developed some outstanding players, and won the League championship in 1932. Several of its members went into the minor and major leagues in organized baseball, and others have become successful in the business world. Until his health became poor Mr. Clesson served as secretary of the Master Plumbers Association and of the Sportsman's Club. He continues a director, however, of the Decatur Gun Club and the Trail Riders Association. He also belongs to the Macon Lodge, No. 8, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; the Lions Club of Decatur; the Decatur Association of Commerce. A quick end of World War I prevented his military service in that conflict. He had tried to enlist in the Navy, but had been rejected because that arm of the service had filled its ranks. Then he was drafted into the Army. He was to leave on November 21, 1918, but the Armistice was signed ten days before that. While baseball is still an enthusiasm of Mr. Clesson's, he indulges in such sports as horseback riding, hunting with his bird dog, fishing and skeet shooting. Farming is a business to enable him to get out in the open and get fresh air. He and Mrs. Clesson have a small stock farm circling part of Lake Decatur, and hence call it "Half Circle Valley." The Clessons are popular throughout Decatur and are recognized for their great contribution to the community.

JAMES RAY LIVESAY

Throughout the middle west a name outstanding among radio broadcasters is that of

James Ray Livesay, president of the Mattoon Broadcasting Company of Mattoon, operators of Stations WLBH and WLBH-FM. Mr. Livesay spearheaded the movement which established WLBH to serve the Mattoon-Charleston area, and brought the station into existence after he had served with the armed forces in World War II. He has served the community not only as a broadcaster but as a member of important civic groups.

Mr. Livesay was born at Grand Tower, Jackson County, Illinois, on October 1, 1916, and is the son of William Stokley and Eula J. (Ogden) Livesay. His father, born on December 1, 1888, at Austin, Kentucky, was a farmer and land owner in Kentucky and Illinois. Ray Livesay was educated at Wolf Lake, Sadorus and Tolono and the National Radio Institute in Washington, D. C. In his high school days he was active in dramatics, debating clubs and public speaking. From 1935 to 1936 Mr. Livesay owned and operated a radio sales and service business in Villa Grove. In 1936 he became an advertising sales representative for Station WDZ at Tuscola. He remained with this station until 1944, and in the meantime began announcing. He made a reputation as "Jimmy Ray." In 1944, Mr. Livesay went into the Navy and because of his experience and knowledge of radio, he was placed in a Naval Electronics School. He served as an instructor in radar at Chicago and Gulfport, Mississippi.

Separated from the service in early 1946, Mr. Livesay returned to Mattoon and proceeded with plans to establish his radio station. On December 1, 1946, WLBH was dedicated. He himself conducts a round-table program each Sunday afternoon "because it is an opportunity to have WLBH serve the community by giving facts in discussion of community problems and projects." Both the station and its president-general manager have a tremendous influence today in the broadcasting area.

In the summer of 1933, in the course of a visit to relatives in Dixie, Mr. Livesay met a young lady from Tennessee. She was Lefel Elmore, who had completed her schooling at Middle Tennessee State College at Murfreesboro and became a teacher. In December, 1937, she and Mr. Livesay were married. Though Mrs. Livesay "comes" from Tennessee, she was actually born in the same community as Mr. Livesay's father, Austin, Kentucky. She is now active in Mattoon social clubs, bridge clubs and civic organizations. There are two children—Shirley Lef-

fel, born at Tuscola on September 21, 1940, and James Ray, II, born at Mattoon on April 6, 1948. The family resides at 921 Charleston Avenue and worships at the Central Community Church, Mattoon. Mr. Livesay is a trustee of this church.

He is a member of the Mattoon Hospital Committee, the Mattoon Civic Traffic Committee and other groups. His organizations include Rotary, the Masonic order and High 12 Club, the Radio Executives Club of New York, the American Legion and the Mattoon Country Club. Still and motion picture photography, flying and big game hunting are his favorite recreations. He holds a private pilot license and owns a private plane. As the Mattoon daily paper said in an article about him, "Mr. Livesay's sincere efforts to direct the facilities of WLBH so as to render the greatest possible service to the people of this community is a token of his deep appreciation for the fine way you have received and accepted your local radio service."

JOSEPH THOMAS CLANCY

In population Champaign County holds fourteenth place among Illinois' one hundred two counties. Through the work of Sheriff Joseph Thomas Clancy, the county holds a considerably higher place than this in law enforcement and freedom from crime. For Sheriff Clancy, once a member of the Illinois State Highway Patrol, has applied modern, progressive methods to the enforcement of the law in Champaign County and has as a result won an important place for himself among the peace officers of the State and nation. He is active in civic life and in veterans affairs, being himself a Navy veteran of World War II. He is prominent in fraternal organizations.

Sheriff Clancy was born in Tolono Twp., Champaign county on March 10, 1910, the son of Thomas and Margaret Catherine (Donovan) Clancy. Both parents are natives of Illinois also. The father, who achieved considerable prominence as a farmer, is now retired.

Sheriff Clancy began his education in the public schools of Champaign County. He was graduated from the Champaign High School in 1927 and seven years later entered the University of Illinois School of Commerce. He was graduated in 1938 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. At the university he took part in baseball and was on the freshman baseball squad.

Immediately after obtaining his degree the future Sheriff became sales engineer for the Nelson Concrete Products Company. In 1941 he resigned from this firm to accept an appointment to the Illinois State Highway Patrol, in which he achieved the rank of Lieutenant. On March 16, 1944, he enlisted in the United States Navy, in which he was commissioned a Lieutenant and with which he served until a few months after the end of World War II. He served in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

Upon his separation from the service, Mr. Clancy returned to his native Champaign County, where he had been farmer, sales engineer, police officer and prominent citizen. On November 5, 1946, he was elected Sheriff of the county, and this is the office he holds today. His headquarters are in the court house at Urbana, the county seat. His home and that of his family is in the Sheriff's residence adjoining the Champaign County Jail in Urbana.

Sheriff Clancy married Alberta Brandon at Fairmont, Illinois, on November 25, 1939. They have become the parents of two sons—Joseph Brandon Clancy, who was born on February 13, 1941, and Edward Lee Clancy, who was born on June 12, 1943. Mrs. Clancy is active in women's club work in Urbana.

The Sheriff is a member of the Illinois Sheriffs Association, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Amvets; the Urbana Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, No. 991. He is a Republican and worships in St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Urbana. Hunting, fishing and golf are his favorite recreations. For golf he belongs to the Urbana Country Club.

Sheriff Clancy may not have the friendship of the law-breaking element in Champaign County, but he has the affection and respect of the law abiding community.

CLYDE A. BROWN

A leading figure in Pinckneyville, seat of Perry County, and the county as a whole, Clyde A. Brown is known throughout Southern Illinois. He is a man whose reputation has been established not only through business success but through the movements he has led for the improvement and development of the county. The growth of industry and general physical betterment of the communities was stimulated by his leadership, and he is also known for his wartime and health and welfare work. Since 1924 Mr. Brown has been the operator of the Brown Chevrolet



JOSEPH THOMAS CLANCY



HON. JOHN MILTON (Brother) BURNS

Company, Chevrolet and Oldsmobile dealers at Pinckneyville.

Born at Cutler, Perry County, on December 9, 1890, Mr. Brown is the son of David and Ellen Jane (McClure) Brown. His father, also born in Perry County, was a farmer. His father was Allen Brown, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, who after coming to America became a prominent contractor, house builder and landholder near Cutler. His original 640 acres are still in the family. Ellen Jane Brown's family came from South Carolina. She herself was born in Perry County. Clyde Brown is the oldest of four children, the others being Ethel, Grace and Mayme.

Mr. Brown received his education in elementary schools at Cutler and in the high school at Sparta, and then went to work in the experimental room of the John Deere Plow Company at Moline, where he was a mechanic. After two years with the John Deere Company Mr. Brown in 1910 returned to Cutler and there was employed in a grocery store owned by F. M. Norton. Afterwards he spent two years working with his father in a meat market and grocery, also at Cutler. When he left his father, he became general manager of a lumber and construction business at Percy, Illinois. This was owned by his father-in-law. In 1924 Mr. Brown began operations under the Chevrolet and Oldsmobile franchise at Pinckneyville. His firm, Brown Chevrolet Company, has grown to the stage where it employs eight persons. Besides a large volume of sales, Mr. Brown does a big business in repairs.

On November 4, 1913, at Percy, Mr. Brown married Carrie M. Davis, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Davis of that community. They worship in the First Presbyterian Church of Pinckneyville and both are active socially in the county seat.

Mr. Brown has been prominently associated with numerous organizations and civic programs. He was president of the Pinckneyville Chamber of Commerce for five years, during which time the town became the site of a garment factory, attracted by the efforts of the chamber, and also went through extensive developments, such as street paving. Politics is Mr. Brown's hobby. An outstanding Republican in Perry County, he is now a precinct committeeman at Pinckneyville. He has participated in War Bond and Savings Bond drives and in Red Cross activities and is a prominent Mason, being also a Shriner. In addition, he belongs to the DuQuoin Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and

the Pinckneyville Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Pinckneyville several years. Hunting is his favorite sport. Progress has been accelerated in Perry County under the leadership of Clyde A. Brown.

HON. JOHN MILTON (Brother) BURNS

The third generation of the Burns family to own and operate a feed business established at Sparta, Randolph County, around 1880, John Milton Burns has not only built that business—the Burns Feed and Produce Company—into an institution famed in Southern Illinois but made himself a leading figure in the civic life and public affairs of that region. His service to Sparta has been of such character as to bring him the office of Mayor, to which he was named when he was only twenty-eight years old. His administration has brought the community numerous progressive developments.

Mayor Burns was born in Sparta on August 21, 1913, the son of Alvin Howard and Katharine Mildred (Douglas) Burns and the grandson of John S. Burns. It was the grandfather, a native of Randolph County and originally a farmer and mule trader, who first established and operated what is today called the Burns Feed and Produce Company. Alvin Howard Burns, also a native of Randolph County, has been in business in Sparta most of his life. For years he operated the feed business now owned by his son. He now gives all his time to another business, the Burns Wholesale Grocery Company, which operates in a territory with a radius of twenty miles of Sparta and does a million-dollar volume annually. He is also active in public affairs, having served as Commissioner of Streets in Sparta for four years, and is one of the leading figures in the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and other organizations. The Mayor's mother is the daughter of Frank S. and Lula Douglas of Chester.

Mayor Burns, the second of four children, attended Sparta's elementary and high schools. When he was sixteen years old, and in his junior year at high school, he left school to take over the management of the Burns Feed and Produce Company from his father. He had worked in that business from the time he was thirteen years of age. He is now its sole owner. The company handles a full line of feeds, chickens, eggs, produce, fertilizer, paint and hardware and serves

nearly all of Randolph County, operating an elevator which is certified to store Government corn and grain. It employs eight persons.

On September 25, 1932, Mr. Burns married Hannah Laura Smart, the daughter of Samuel and Lily Smart of Randolph County. Three children have been born to the marriage—Milton Roger, on December 30, 1933; George S., on May 24, 1935, and Patricia L., on February 9, 1937.

Mayor Burns' public service began chiefly in his activities as a member of such civic organizations as the Lions and Rotary Clubs, to which he no longer belongs; the Knights of Pythias, the Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Then he was made Commissioner of Finance, a post he occupied five years. In 1941 he was elected Mayor of Sparta, and since then he has done many things for the city. He was instrumental in the establishment of a public library and for installing sewers and water systems in the Henderson Addition and having the Addition incorporated in the city of Sparta. Also, he was responsible for inducing the Spartan Publishing and Printing Company to establish its plant, employing 125, in Sparta. He is president of the Sparta Cemetery Board and since the age of twelve has been active in the United Presbyterian Church of Sparta. Mayor Burns is regarded as one of the most progressive individuals in the region.

HONORABLE PAUL W. POORMAN

As Postmaster of Mattoon since the early days of the administration of the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Honorable Paul W. Poorman has had opportunity to assist not only that city but all of Coles County and the surrounding area to continue on a path of great growth and progress. Postmaster Poorman has taken advantage of this opportunity, and earned for himself the respect and gratitude of all the people. He is former president and treasurer of the Mattoon Grocery Company, Inc., which he founded, and is a leader in the Democratic Party and in conservation activities.

Born on the Poorman family farm in Humboldt Township, Coles County, in 1886, Mr. Poorman is the son of William Allison and Sarah Ann (Wamsley) Poorman. His father, born in 1842, was the first male white child born in that township and became a prominent farmer. He was the son of John W. Poorman,

who emigrated from Clinton County, Pennsylvania, to the west side of Coles County in 1836. He was a farmer and livestock breeder. The Postmaster's mother, born in Adams County, Ohio, came to Illinois in an ox-drawn covered wagon in 1855, when she was six years old. Her family settled on a farm next to the Poorman's.

The future Postmaster attended Humboldt's grade schools and the Mattoon High School, after which he went to the University of Illinois Preparatory School and spent two years in the agricultural classes of the university itself. When he left school Mr. Poorman went West and for a short time was employed at Portland, Oregon. Then he returned to Illinois, and engaged in farming and stockraising on the home place. In 1911, he purchased a grain elevator at Humboldt, and this he operated successfully for the next eleven years. In 1922 he disposed of this property and with his family went to Texas to investigate some land holdings of his parents. He and the family remained in Houston and Galveston about a year, after which they returned to Coles County. It was at this time that he organized the Mattoon Grocery Company, Inc., serving as its president and treasurer until 1934. In these years he had proved his public interest in many ways, and he had, of course, held a number of village and township offices. Since the days when his grandfather broke with the Whigs in 1836 and became a Democrat, the family has belonged to that party. The Postmaster has himself been a leading figure in the organization in Coles County for years. In 1934, on the recommendation of Congressman D. C. Dobbins, he was appointed Postmaster of Mattoon, and has since held that office. When he took over, the postal savings of the Mattoon Post Office totaled about \$200,000. In the years since Mr. Poorman became Postmaster they have risen to more than \$1,500,000. The flow of mail and parcel post has increased in the same proportions. Mr. Poorman was vice-president of the First National Bank of Humboldt, Illinois, from 1940 to 1945.

Postmaster Poorman married Mary Danner, youngest daughter of J. Danner and Mary (McNutt) Danner of Humboldt, in 1911. Mrs. Poorman is active in the affairs of the Central Community Church of Mattoon and the city's social life. There are three children—William Allison Poorman, born in 1912, who married Mary Ellen Shoaff of Shelbyville and is the father of Peter Gregory Poorman; Margery Louise, born in 1916, now Mrs. Jack



HONORABLE PAUL W. POORMAN



CALVIN EARL WATSON

Hirsch and the mother of Frederic Danner Hirsch; and Jean Anne, born in 1924, now Mrs. Orwin Proctor Johnson, who is the mother of Paul Henry, born November 4, 1949.

Postmaster Poorman was local chairman of the Will Rogers Memorial Fund campaign, during which Mattoon gave more than generously. He has made a reputation for his work on behalf of conservation. He believes in work for soil, woodland, wild game and fish propagation, and gives much leadership to the effort. As a hobby he collects American Indian relics. As citizen and public official, Postmaster Poorman is one of Coles County's popular men.

CALVIN EARL WATSON

The "Man of the Year" at Cairo in 1946 was Calvin Earl Watson. His designation was earned by his activities as business man, civic leader and worker on behalf of Southern Illinois and the Greater Egyptian territory. Mr. Watson, who went into the wholesale meat business at the age of eighteen, following his graduation from high school, early in his career won the nickname of "The Sausage Kid," and today one of his businesses is the Sausage Kid Company, operated in partnership with his wife. Another business is the Calvin Watson Company, handling air-conditioning appliances and service. A third business, the newest, is called Calvin Watson, Inc. It is a Dodge-Plymouth dealership. Outside the business world Mr. Watson devotes himself to movements aimed at building Southern Illinois.

He was born at Mound City, seat of Pulaski County, on June 9, 1916, the third of a family of five children. His parents are Earl and Oma (Scheerer) Watson. His father, also born in Pulaski County, is an electrician still living at Mound City; the mother is a native of Mound City. Calvin Earl Watson was educated in Mound City's schools, graduating from high school in 1934. Upon graduation he formed a partnership which operated a wholesale meat business known as the S. and W. Provision Company. The partners began with one truck purchased for \$125 on a ninety-day note; at the end of ninety days they paid half the note and renewed for the other half for another ninety days. By 1937, the year of the great flood, the company was operating three trucks, but the flood washed away the entire business—and Mr. Watson moved to Cairo. In 1938 he established another wholesale meat route, operating out of Cairo. This was and is the business named

the Sausage Kid Company. Today this enterprise serves a territory with a radius of thirty miles from Cairo, and operates three trucks. It has a warehouse owned by Mr. Watson and his wife. As he continued his business career, Mr. Watson took on the Goodrich tire distributorship at Cairo, to which he added the franchises for Norge appliances and Carrier air-conditioning equipment. After fifteen months he sold the tire and appliance dealership to the Goodrich Rubber Company, but retained the air-conditioning business. This he named the Calvin Watson Co., and he operates it at 1315 Ohio Street, Cairo. On April 29, 1949, Mr. Watson bought the Dodge-Plymouth franchise and became president and general manager of the company which now operates it, Calvin Watson, Inc.

His business and domestic partner is the former Evelyn Baker, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Baker of Golconda. They were married on May 14, 1939, and they have one son, Scott Watson, who was born on May 16, 1946. Mr. Baker, member of an old family in the region, is a large landowner and a banker.

Mr. Watson's hobby is Chamber of Commerce work and its concomitant, civic development, and in 1949 he was completing his fourth year as president of the Cairo Association of Commerce. The chamber had eighty-seven members when Mr. Watson became president. In his fourth year it had 287 members. Before he became active in the senior chamber, he was a leader in the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Cairo—and it was this chamber which in 1946 named him Cairo's "Man of the Year." He has twice been president of the Rotary Club of Cairo, the only man ever to succeed himself in that office. He has been instrumental in bringing about industrial expansion and in the promotion of an airport for Cairo. He was the first to serve as vice-president of the Greater Egyptian Association and is a former director of the Egyptian Country Club and president of the Cairo Riding Club. He is also active in Masonry, including the Shrine and the Scottish Rite, and in Cairo Lodges of the Elks and Moose. He is a Methodist. He is one of Southern Illinois' most energetic and inventive regional and civic workers.

LESTER ELI STARR

The Starr brothers are known throughout Downstate Illinois and they are continuing a family reputation and contribution begun by their father, the late Harry Eli Starr. The

brothers—there are six of them—are in the creamery, ice cream, bottling and distribution of Coca-Cola and the distribution of beer. Also, they own considerable real estate. The head of their various corporations is Lester Eli Starr, whose headquarters are at Mount Vernon. Mr. Starr is an outstanding personality in the community affairs of that city and in banking and in the various fields of business in which he and his five brothers are active.

He was born at Bethalto, Madison County, in 1890. His father, also a native of that county was in the creamery business too, operating the Orange Creamery at Bethalto. This concern was dissolved in 1913. Harry Eli Starr served as an Alderman at Bethalto and on the school board. The Starr family came to Illinois from Boston. The mother was Elizabeth (Prevost) Starr, a native of Brighton, Macoupin County. Her family, all farmers, came to America from France in 1854, settling at Brighton. Lester Starr grew up and received his early education at Bethalto. Also he attended the Gem City Business College at Quincy. In 1917 he entered the creamery business at Carlinville, in association with his brothers, F. Wayne Starr and V. Earl Starr. Later the same year they established a plant in Mount Vernon. In the first three years they bought raw cream from the farmers and processed it into butter and ice cream. In the 1920's they began the manufacture of ice and the bottling and distribution of Coca-Cola at Mount Vernon. Earl, Harry and James Starr operated the Carlinville plant, while Lester, Wayne and Lloyd Starr looked after the Mount Vernon interests. The Carlinville plant has branches at Springfield, Jacksonville, Havana and Lincoln, producing butter and ice cream and distributing Falstaff beer. There are three separate corporations operating these businesses—Mount Vernon Ice Cream and Bottling Company, Starr Brothers and Starr Brothers Investment Company. Of all, Lester E. Starr is president. Starr Brothers operates the Creamery business. The investment company is a holding company for several important downtown and industrial properties owned by the brothers. Lester Starr himself owns considerable farm land. There are 87 employees.

Mr. Starr married Halie Stonemetz of Fairfield. By a previous marriage he became the father of one son, Carl Starr, who is associated with the Starr enterprises. Carl Starr married Virginia Meyer of Alton and is the

father of Carl Lester and David Michael Starr.

Lester E. Starr has been active in many fields of interest. For fifteen years, through several terms, he was on the board of directors of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce. He is currently serving on the board of the Illinois Ice Association. A director of the First National Bank of Mount Vernon, he is also its honorary vice-president. In World War II Mr. Starr was chairman of the selective Service System for Jefferson County. He is active in the Rotary Club of Mount Vernon and in the Mount Vernon Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His leadership in the business world and on the civic scene has made him a figure of importance in his native state.

HONORABLE F. W. "BO" WOOD

"The most progressive Mayor in the history of Sullivan." This is one, but only one, of the highly laudatory descriptions of the Honorable F. W. "Bo" Wood of the Moultrie County seat. Elected in 1943, he has been re-elected ever since to the mayoral office and, as newspaper editorials and other reports have shown, has kept a host of pledges to improve the city. When Mayor Wood, who had been secretary of the Sullivan Chamber of Commerce for eighteen years, first ran for the office, a group of his friends organized to support him. To this day he does not know their identity. In a public statement in 1946 these unidentified friends said, "We, as friends, of Bo are glad we supported him. We think he has done a fine job. We know that as Mayor of Sullivan Bo has made a substantial business sacrifice as most any would who assume that job. We feel he has made a fine record as Mayor and we as Bo's friends offer him these words of encouragement, a sort of pat on the back: Good work, Bo—Keep it up!" This may be the only occurrence of its kind in American history.

Mayor Wood was born in Sullivan on September 14, 1902, the son of James E. and Maude (Hampton) Sullivan. His father, a native of Sullivan and a merchant, is a descendant of the Francis Cook who came to the New World on the Mayflower. The Mayor's mother is the daughter of Albert Hampton, of English descent, and was also born in Sullivan. "Bo" Wood was educated in Sullivan's elementary and high schools, and for ten years after completing his education was assistant cashier of the Sullivan Bank. Also, he has been in the general insurance and loan



HONORABLE F. W. "BO" WOOD



VICTOR MELVIN SCHEEF

business. He is a manager of the Central Loan Company of Sullivan and president of the Citizens Abstract Company of Sullivan.

On December 15, 1928, Mr. Wood married Phyllis E. Harshman, native of Sullivan and daughter of Paul and Nellie Harshman. Mrs. Wood is a dental nurse as well as a housewife. She and the Mayor have four children—Elaine Wood Hansen, the wife of Eugene Hansen and mother of Michael Hansen; Marilyn Wood; Gordon Wood, and Beverly Wood. Their home is at 313 West Harrison Street, Sullivan, and they worship in the Methodist Church, in which Mayor Wood is a board member.

Though virtually everyone knows him well, few in Sullivan know that their Mayor's full name is Forrest Wiley Wood. He obtained the nickname of "Bo" when he was ten, and it has "stuck to him." From 1923 to 1941, he was secretary of the Sullivan Chamber of Commerce and from 1943 to 1950 served on the chamber's board of directors. He is also a member of the Lions Club of Sullivan and several Masonic bodies.

Among the pledges the Mayor has made and kept since he assumed office in 1943 are: conservation of the city light plant, with larger discounts in the electric light rate; improvement of storm sewers; better playground and tennis court at Wyman Park, with entertainment at the park in the summer seasons; cleaning and improvement of alleys; cleaner streets; "a park that is a park"; cooperation with all civic and commercial clubs; reinvigorated efforts to obtain more industries for Sullivan; cooperation between the City Council and the people; no favoritism. And says the Moultrie County News of Sullivan: "'Bo' has undoubtedly been the most progressive mayor in the history of Sullivan. Also, he has been the most hardworking mayor . . . We have every good reason to know that 'Bo' will carry on in the future as he has in the past." What more can be said of a public official?

VICTOR MELVIN SCHEEF

"Tender Krust" bread is a staple item of diet popular throughout a large area of Central Illinois, the product of one of the region's great institutions, the Mattoon Baking Company of Mattoon. The proprietor of this organization is Victor Melvin Scheef, who within a few years of shifting his career interest from boilermaking to baking was well on the road to success and renown in the industry. Mr. Scheef is well known for another

of his activities: it was he who, with a partner, started an oil boom in and around Mattoon. They operate the Gordon Oil Company. With another partner, Mr. Scheef operates the Victor Drilling Company, another important unit in the oil industry.

Victor Melvin Scheef was born in Mattoon on March 21, 1911, the son of Henry Raymond and Hilda (Kull) Scheef. His father, a native of the area near Stewardson, in Shelby County, where he was born on a farm, celebrated his thirty-seventh year in 1949 as a locomotive carpenter for the Big Four Railroad. He is the son of John H. and Elizabeth Scheef. Mrs. Hilda Scheef, who was born in Strasburg, Shelby County, the daughter of Ferdinand and Carolyn Kull, died in February, 1947.

Mr. Scheef began his education in the Hawthorne Grade School, Mattoon. After graduating from that school, he spent a year at the Mattoon High School and then two years at Utterback's Business College. Also, he took a course in the Seibel Institute of Baking in Chicago. In his school years he participated in football, basketball and track.

At the age of sixteen Mr. Scheef became a boilermaker's apprentice at the Big Four shops. But two years later, in 1929, he entered the employ of the Mattoon Baking Company, which then as now was located at 1418 Broadway. On January 1, 1935, he purchased the bakery from Fred Messmer. It was a wholesale and retail plant with four wholesale routes. In 1938, Mr. Scheef extensively remodeled and enlarged the plant. Today it has nine wholesale routes and one retail store, employing an aggregate of forty-one persons. The routes serve an area of about forty to forty-five miles around Mattoon. "Tender Krust" bread is one of the more popular bakery products distributed by Mr. Scheef.

In 1945, the Gordon Oil Company, of which Mr. Scheef is a partner, drilled an oil well that started the oil boom in and around Mattoon. At present the company is operating thirty-one wells. In 1946 Mr. Scheef and Ralph Carter went into the drilling business. Their company, known as the Victor Drilling Company, is now drilling numerous oil wells. These activities have made Mr. Scheef one of the best known men in Central Illinois.

On July 17, 1930, Mr. Scheef married Margaret Anna Messmer, daughter of Fred and Minnie Messmer. Mrs. Scheef is treasurer of St. Joseph's School Lunch Program and a member of the St. Ann Circle of Daugh-

ters of Isabelle, the Altar Society and St. Joseph's Mothers Club. Mr. and Mrs. Scheef reside at 3345 Prairie Avenue, Mattoon. Their children are Donald Duane Scheef, born on May 21, 1934, and Mary Ann Scheef, born on November 19, 1938. Mr. Scheef worships in the St. John's Lutheran Church.

Mr. Scheef's community activities are channeled through the Kiwanis Club of Mattoon, the Mattoon Association of Commerce and the Mattoon Golf and Country Club. His recreational interests these days are flying, fishing, hunting and trap and skeet shooting. He is one of the modern school of intrepid and experimenting developers of a community and region.

HON. BURLEY S. BURGETT

Through farming and public office the Honorable Burley S. Burgett has served his native Douglas County for years. At present County Court Clerk, with headquarters at the county seat, Tuscola, Mr. Burgett is a former director of School District No. 54 and a former member of the non-high school board. He is one of the best known and most popular figures in Douglas County.

Mr. Burgett was born on a farm near Brushy Fork, Sargent Township, Douglas County, on August 4, 1891. His parents were Wilson Sumner and Kate M. (Brown) Burgett, and his paternal grandparents were I. W. and Telitha (Howard) Burgett. His grandfather was the first man to serve Sargent Township as a Supervisor. Wilson S. Burgett, popularly known as "Top," was born in Sargent Township on December 23, 1863, and was a prominent farmer there and, later on, in the area of Camargo, also in Douglas County. He moved his family to his farm southeast of Camargo in 1892, and there remained until his death on February 22, 1937.

Taken to Camargo when he was about a year old, the future County Clerk grew up in that area. He attended the elementary and high schools there and later took a commercial course at Valparaiso University in nearby Indiana. After finishing school Burley Burgett worked his father's farm near Camargo. He lived on the farm until December, 1940. For twenty years he served as director of School District No. 54 and for several years as a member of the non-high school board. In November, 1938, he was elected County Clerk of Douglas County. In 1942, he was re-elected and in 1946 re-elected again.

Mr. Burgett married Orpha C. Layton of Sidell, Vermillion County, a daughter of

William C. and Luella (Sconce) Layton at Paxton on March 1, 1913. Mrs. Burgett, active for years in church and club work, taught in the public schools of Vermilion and Douglas Counties for several years. She was teaching in the Murdock School at the time of her marriage. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Burgett—Lois Louise, now Mrs. Wilbur C. Warnes and mother of John W. and Jerry W. Warnes; William S. Burgett, who married Rozella Wylie and is the father of Sandra Kay, Judith Ann and Donald Dean Burgett; Gladys Mae, now Mrs. Otto L. Barthell and mother of Lesley Ann Barthell; and Helen Joanne Burgett, who lives with her parents. The family moved from the Camargo farm to 106 West Ensey Street, Tuscola, in 1940, and worships in the South Side Christian Church of Tuscola.

Mr. Burgett is a member of the church board. He is also active in Camargo Lodge, No. 440, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, which he served as master several years. He is affiliated with the Republican Party. In making a substantial contribution to the development of Douglas County, County Clerk Burley S. Burgett has won the respect and affection of its 18,000 citizens.

HON. HARRY EARL HOAG

Always willing to undertake an adventure, Harry Earl Hoag of Momence, Kankakee County, started early in life. That was when he started riding a horse from his home farm to school. Later he essayed an inland-waterways trip to New Orleans (getting as far as St. Louis) and finally he pioneered in the motion picture industry as an exhibitor. He has not given up adventuring yet. In the depression he bought land, built a new theater in Watseka—and went broke. In 1947 he finally made a long inland-waterways trip, this time to Miami. Today, one of the oldest independent theater owners in Illinois, he is the operator of the modern and attractive Momence Theater. He is one of the better known figures in show business in the state. He has served his city in many ways, among them as an Alderman.

Mr. Hoag was born in Momence on December 22, 1888, the son of Arthur C. and Augusta (Storrs) Hoag, both also natives of Illinois. The father operated the country store and post office at Exline, Kankakee County. Up to the eighth grade Harry E. Hoag found going to school at Exline fairly easy. But then he entered the Momence School, six miles



HON. BURLEY S. BURGETT



ZOLLIE P. O'HAIR

away. He had to go on horseback or walk or otherwise cover the distance. In 1907 he was graduated. It was in the last year of school that he and a friend conceived the idea of going down to the Mississippi and to New Orleans by rowboat. At St. Louis, they discovered themselves both penniless and homesick and, in consequence, hurriedly hitch-hiked home. They arrived after an absence of three months—and were several weeks late in entering their senior year. Upon his graduation Mr. Hoag joined his father in the store, and also worked in a grain elevator. Three years later, on learning that a small motion picture theater was for sale in Momence, Harry Hoag borrowed enough money to buy it. This was in 1911 and the house was known as The Theatorium. It seated 225 persons and admissions were five and ten cents. The seats were not fastened to the floor and two nights a week, after the show, they were pushed back to the walls and a dance was held. The pictures were, of course, silent and there was the old-fashioned piano player. The show lasted about thirty minutes. Mr. Hoag operated the Theatorium for four years and then rented a store building in which he put in a raised floor for "sight lines" and opened as the Bijou Theater. In 1918 he also entered the garage business, with a local mechanic as his staff. In 1925 he sold out the garage. In the meantime, as he operated his theater, he had bought several lots and in 1924 built and opened the Momence Theater. This seats 400 persons and has been since modernized both as to style and equipment. It was in 1929 that Mr. Hoag established the Watseka Theater. But in 1932 the depression forced him to close out. Shortly afterward a large theater chain bought it. In 1947 Mr. Hoag, still adventuring, bought a 26-foot Chris Craft cabin cruiser and with his wife made a four months' trip to Miami by the river route.

Mrs. Hoag is the former Jane Pittman, born in June 1889, in Momence. They were married in that city in 1912. They worship in the Baptist Church.

Mr. Hoag has served on the Momence Board of Aldermen since 1935. He is active in the Momence Chamber of Commerce and the Momence Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and the Bloomington Commandery, Knights Templar. He participates in all welfare fund-raising campaigns and in other major civic projects, and is a highly esteemed citizen of Kankakee County.

ZOLLIE P. O'HAIR

The O'Hairs have lived in downstate Illinois since 1837 and in the more than hundred years that have passed since their first settlement there have made their name internationally famous in the agricultural world. The current head of the family is Zollie P. O'Hair and he is also head of the business known throughout North and Central America and in other portions of the globe as the Grand Prairie Seed Farm. This is located one mile north of Bushton in Coles County. The farm specializes in broomcorn seed. Mr. O'Hair is as well known in his civic and fraternal affiliations as he is in agriculture.

He was born on the farm which is still his home on May 24, 1883. His father, the late Harvey Z. O'Hair, was born in Paris, Illinois, on March 18, 1864. He was taken by his parents to Hickory Township, Coles County, when he was a year old. His parents were Michael E. O'Hair, a native of Morgan County, Kentucky, who with his family moved to Illinois at the age of seven, and Rebekah C. (Zink) O'Hair. Michael O'Hair was twenty-one when the California gold boom lured him away from Illinois. He made a fortune in the gold fields and then took a long trip by foot, rail and steamboat from California through the Isthmus of Panama, to Cuba, New Orleans, St. Louis and back to Paris, his home. He became sheriff of Edgar County and one of the outstanding figures in downstate Illinois in his day. It was he who, in 1861, took the family to Seven Hickory Township in Coles County. He bought 800 acres of land there and before moving from Paris to the farm in 1865 he constructed the necessary dwelling and other buildings. He was one of the first to introduce broom corn in this part of the country. He spent the major portion of his life on this farm, and died there in 1914, at the age of eighty-five. Rebekah Zink O'Hair's family came from Pennsylvania. On the paternal side Zollie O'Hair is descended from John O'Hair who immigrated from Ireland to Virginia in 1775 and fought in the Revolutionary War. Afterward, he moved to Hazel Green, Kentucky. His son, John O'Hair, Jr., who was the great-grandfather of Zollie O'Hair, moved from Kentucky to Edgar County, Illinois, in 1837. The mother of Zollie P. O'Hair is Ida M. (Craig) O'Hair, who was born at Bushton on January 14, 1868, and still makes her home there. She is the daughter of Lafayette and Margaret (Woodfall) Craig. Her father, born at Newton, Illinois,

was a farmer and stockman who specialized in raising purebred horses. His farm was located one and three-quarters miles southeast of Bushton. Mrs. O'Hair was educated in a Coles County grade school and on November 21, 1889, was married to Harvey Z. O'Hair in the home of her parents near Bushton. She has always been active in the Bushton Christian Church and in her younger days was also active in club work. She and Harvey O'Hair became the parents of five children, of whom four survive, Zollie being the second born and the oldest of the living children.

Harvey Z. O'Hair was educated in Coles County's common schools and at Lee's Academy, Loxa, Illinois, graduating in 1886 with the highest honors possible. The year of his marriage, 1889, he started farming one mile north of Bushton, and he operated from 200 to 700 acres in Coles County, specializing in broom corn. He became one of the largest broom corn growers in the nation and during harvest employed as many as 100 men. For two years he operated 1,000 acres near Kit Carson, Colorado, and for one year he was superintendent of the broom corn department of the Charles P. Taft Ranch of 125,000 acres in Texas. In 1907 Harvey O'Hair took a course in the Jones National School of Auctioneering at Chicago and for many years was a successful auctioneer. As a sideline he had the agency for Reo automobiles and trucks from 1912 to 1924. Also, he sold threshing machines, steam engines, tractors and silos. One of the first advocates of good roads, he gave untiring efforts to this cause. In 1904 he was a supervisor of Seven Hickory Township and was elected chairman of the Coles County Board of Supervisors and was a member of the Board of Review. During this time he carried on his farming operations and in 1909 established what was to become known internationally as Grand Prairie Seed Farm. In this year he published his first annual seed corn and broom corn seed catalog, and every year since one has been issued. The business was carried on locally and by mail order. At present it extends into the various sections of the broom corn districts of the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America and other foreign countries, largely through the leadership of Zollie O'Hair. Harvey O'Hair was at one time a school teacher. He served in the Illinois State Legislature—three terms as a Representative. He served on agricultural and educational committees, and sponsored several urgent bills. He was affiliated with the Elks, Red Men, Woodmen and held the thirty-

second degree in Masonry. On August 31, 1939, he died at Oakwood Hospital, Charleston, and burial followed at Union (Greasy Point) Cemetery, near Bushton. The entire state has long agreed that he was one of its great men.

Zollie P. O'Hair, his son, oldest surviving child and head of the business he founded, first attended the O'Hair school two miles from his birthplace. Later he went to the Bushton grade and high school. In 1911, he graduated from the Givler Commercial College at Charleston, the county seat. He then went into business with his father, assisting in the operation of both the retail and wholesale phases of Grand Prairie Seed Farm, and since that time he has been associated with this business. In 1918 Mr. O'Hair was inducted into the United States Army and served eight months. In 1933, he entered the service of the Illinois State Highway Department, with which he was associated for eight years. In 1941 he returned to Grand Prairie Seed Farm.

On August 5, 1932, Mr. O'Hair married Dorothy J. Chapman, the daughter of Frank M. and Sarah Chapman. The marriage took place at Chicago. Mrs. O'Hair belongs to various women's clubs and is active in lodge, club and school social events. She and Mr. O'Hair are the parents of Harvey Z. O'Hair, II who was born at Charleston on December 25, 1934, and is now (1950) a sophomore at Charleston High School.

Zollie O'Hair, who became a member of the Masonic Blue Lodge at Hindsboro, Illinois, in 1917, has since taken the thirty-second degree in Masonry at the Bloomington Consistory, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. Like all his American ancestors, he is active in civic and public affairs and is a member of the Democratic Party. Traveling and making electronic tape recordings are his favorite forms of relaxation. Along with his mother, his late father and all members of the family on both sides, Zollie P. O'Hair is contributing to the growth and development of a large portion of downstate Illinois.

BYRON BENOIT BURNS

A pioneer in the used automobile business, Byron Benoit Burns—better known all his life as "B. B. Burns"—has had a national reputation since at least 1920, if not earlier. Decatur and Central Illinois have been his home and business headquarters all his life. Mr. Burns has so devoted himself to his city, state and industry as to have won numerous



BYRON BENOIT BURNS

honors. He has headed various organizations, trade, civic and recreational, and is known for the extraordinary contribution he made to the war effort in World War II.

He was born in Windsor, Shelby County, on June 10, 1886, the son of John Hurlbert Burns, farmer and stock raiser, and Dora Angeline (Walker) Burns, and was educated in the county's rural schools. At the age of eighteen he began a two-year teaching career in the rural schools, but left this field to study at the Carey M. Jones School of Auctioneering in Chicago. In 1907 Mr. Burns purchased a livery, feed and sales stable in Windsor and conducted this in connection with the auctioneering. In 1908 he sold the stable and opened a real estate and insurance office in connection with auctioneering. In 1909 he became a representative of the Northwestern Ohio Land Company, transporting prospects via automobile from Central Illinois to Northwestern Ohio in company-owned cars, and in 1910 purchased his own first automobile, a 1910 Reo five-passenger. A year later Mr. Burns moved to Tuscola, still as representative of the Ohio realty firm, but continued his auctioneering activities. In 1912 Mr. Burns established himself in Decatur. He still represented the Ohio firm, but with increased territory assignments, and he still continued auctioneering. In 1913 he arranged to open up a used car salesroom, on a partnership basis, but remained in the real estate and auctioneering businesses. Two years later Mr. Burns discontinued auctioneering and real estate and began devoting his entire time to the used car business. At that time he became owner of the Decatur Automobile Exchange.

Within a few years he was a national figure in the industry, and was besieged for advice on the operation of a used car business. His answer, an article in the Illinois Automotive Trade Magazine for November, 1920, called "The Used Car Business," began a period of writing and lecturing on the subject that has continued to this day. As late as December, 1945, Automotive News said of him, "He established a lot of the practices in the used car business that still continue." As early as 1922, he was given a full page in "Motor Age," another indication of his leadership. However, in 1922, he went out of the used car business. This followed a year of managing Comet Automobile Manufacturing Company, as the representative of banks and creditors. Late in 1922 he became manager

of the Decatur Pump Company and from 1924 to 1927 he was the head of the Burns Realty Company. In 1928 he purchased an interest in and assumed management of a Ford dealership in Decatur. This business became known as B. B. Burns, Inc., in 1934—a Dodge-Plymouth agency. And it is this business, with tremendous plant, service department, sales and display rooms at 402-432 Prairie Avenue, Decatur, that he operates today. Long distance trips became so necessary to his expanding business that in 1936 Mr. Burns, a flying enthusiast who has promoted airport development in Central Illinois and brought Decatur's airport into existence, purchased a plane of his own—a Curtiss Robin three-place monoplane. Other business organizations in which he has been interested are the Peoples Savings and Loan Association of Decatur and the First Farm Mortgage and Bond Company of Decatur, of both of which he was a director.

On November 19, 1907, at Windsor, Mr. Burns married Annie Laurie Matzen, daughter of Peter G. and Mary Matzen. Five children have been born to them—Helen Elizabeth, who was married to Clifford Davidson (now separated); Robert Matzen Burns; John Harold Burns, who married Frances Sanders and is the father of Barbara Lynn Burns; Francis William Burns, who married Dorothy Allen, and Byron Benoit Burns, Jr. The family home is at 175 Cobb Avenue, Decatur, and the entire family worships in Westminster Presbyterian Church, of which Mr. Burns is a former trustee. The family shares Mr. Burns' enthusiasm for horses, participating in his hobby of breeding, raising, training and showing gaited saddle horses.

Mr. Burns' leadership has taken two forms—industrial and civic, and these, of course, have in many instances been combined. As early as 1918, he was made president of the newly-formed Decatur Automotive Association. Later he served as banquet chairman, director and vice-president of the Central Illinois Automotive Association. In 1922 and again in 1941 he was elected president of the Illinois Automotive Trade Association, of which he became a charter member and director in 1920. In 1945, he was made a director of the National Automobile Dealers Association. In 1943, he was appointed Illinois representative on the Motor Vehicle Dealers Advisory Committee of the War Production Board. He has also been president of the Decatur Motor Club. In civic activities, Mr.

Burns has chaired the Macon County United War Fund, the first U. S. O. fund-raising drive, aided in automobile price-ceiling work, led in the county scrap drives, served on the Illinois State Council of Defense, sponsored agricultural development in the county, recreational projects and highway programs.

He has been chairman of various major committees of the Decatur Association of Commerce, including those on airports and roads, and served two terms as president of the association, 1945-1947. He is also a former president of the Kiwanis Club of Decatur and of the Sunnyside Golf Club. Even in his hobby Mr. Burns has been a leader, for he is past president of the Midwest Horse Show Association and the Decatur Trail Riders Association. An entire industry, not to mention the state and nation, owe B. B. Burns a great debt of gratitude for the service he has rendered them.

BENJAMIN WEIR

To journalists and to Methodists throughout the State of Illinois the name of Benjamin Weir of Charleston, seat of Coles County, has long spelled leadership and sincere active work on behalf of the general public. As publisher and owner of the Charleston Daily Courier, Mr. Weir has made a reputation for fairness in the handling of news and for encouraging and stimulating progressive activity throughout a large circulating territory. As one of the men active in the General Conferences and in the educational and institutional work of his church, he is known for his endeavors on behalf of the spiritual life and on behalf of strengthening the church organization. He holds a high place in other facets of daily life.

Benjamin Weir was born on September 18, 1880, in that part of Hamilton County, Tennessee, which is today Chattanooga. His parents were John H. and Ellen (Hatfield) Weir, both natives of Ohio who moved to Tennessee just before the birth of their son. Mrs. Weir, the daughter of Benjamin and Matilda (Nutt) Hatfield, had taught school at Warren County, Ohio. John H. Weir was the son of Phillip and Sarah (Roberts) Weir.

Benjamin Weir began his education in Tennessee and completed it in Illinois. Even in his school days Mr. Weir was a newspaperman, though he started as a printer. He worked in his spare time on a weekly paper. Later, he was with a daily paper in Olney, Illinois. When the Spanish-American War broke out, Mr. Weir served with the Fourth

Illinois Volunteer Infantry in Florida and Cuba for fourteen months. He was acting Quartermaster Sergeant of his brigade when his division went to Cuba, and later served as acting Commissary Sergeant of the same unit.

After the war Mr. Weir worked as clerk with the Southern Express Company in Chattanooga. From this position he went to the Chattanooga Medicine Company, with which he was first a stenographer, then a private secretary and then manager of the St. Louis branch office and finally assistant secretary at the Chattanooga home office. In April, 1919, Mr. Weir purchased the Charleston Daily Courier and he has since been its publisher. Needless to say, the paper has experienced steady growth in circulation, prestige and influence under his guidance.

On October 16, 1906, at Newton, Illinois, Mr. Weir married Lotta Johnson, daughter of Hale and Mary Elizabeth (Loofbourrow) Johnson. Mrs. Weir has been active in the Daughters of the American Revolution and various women's clubs. There are two daughters—Frances Hale, the wife of James C. Shuford, Jr., of Evanston, and mother of James C. Shuford, III, Mary Ellen, Robert Weir and John Alexander Shuford; and Mary Elizabeth, wife of Dr. Kane Zelle of Springfield, and mother of Charles Kane and Ann Elizabeth Zelle. Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Weir reside at 855 Sixth Street, in Charleston.

Outside of journalism Mr. Weir has been charge lay leader and secretary of the official board of the Methodist Church in Charleston. He has been a delegate to four General Conferences and is secretary of the Division of Institutions, Conference Board of Education, as well as a trustee of Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington. He is a charter member and past president of the Rotary Club of Charleston; a member of the Central Illinois professional chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, the newspaper fraternity, of the Charleston Country Club and the Masonic order in which he holds the thirty-second degree. He is also former president of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and now serves on the board of the Coles County Fair Association. Golf and bowling are his recreations. In politics he is a Democrat.

Described as five feet nine and one-half inches tall, weighing 180 pounds, with light brown hair and hazel eyes, Benjamin Weir is a familiar figure not only to the everyday citizen but to hundreds with whom he has shared responsibilities on various civic levels.



BENJAMIN WEIR



HENRY PARTLOW

HENRY PARTLOW

The year 1950 marked the 215th anniversary of the arrival in America of the first Partlow from his native Wales. In the more than two centuries that have passed, the Partlow family has made its mark in many parts of the New World—in Virginia, in Indiana and especially in Illinois. Henry Partlow, direct descendant of the American progenitor, is one of the leading farmers of downstate Illinois and an influential citizen of Clark County. Renowned for his contributions to agriculture and banking, and general development, he is also well known for the British sport he and his family have perpetuated in that section of the State—foxhunting.

Mr. Partlow was born on February 29, 1880, in Johnson Township, Clark County. His father was Marion McDonald Partlow, born in 1844, died in 1922, a farmer who lived in Johnson Township most of his life. He was a lifelong democrat and served in various elective township offices. In 1907 oil was discovered on his farm and two oil formations were named after him—the upper Partlow and the lower Partlow sands. Marion McDonald Partlow was the son of John H. Partlow, who in turn was a son of Jacob Partlow. From Jacob Partlow the descent runs back through his father, Benjamin, to John Partlow, II, and finally to the progenitor, John Partlow.

The first John Partlow came to America from Wales in 1735 and settled in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, naming a village in that county which still bears the name of Partlow. On a return trip to Wales to receive a legacy, he was drowned in a shipwreck. Three sons, John Partlow, II, Samuel and David Partlow, survived him. John Partlow, II, continued to live in Virginia, owning land in Culpeper County as well as in Spotsylvania County. Benjamin Partlow, his son, inherited his land in Culpeper County and moved there. In the Revolutionary War, Benjamin served in the Virginia Militia. Benjamin's son, Jacob, left Virginia in 1836 in company with John H. Partlow and headed west, settling near Laurel, Franklin County, Indiana. John H. Partlow was a son of Jacob. In 1839, John H. Partlow parted company with the family, then living in Laurel, and went west in an ox-drawn covered wagon. In the course of his travels, he stopped to rest the oxen about six miles south of what is now Casey, Clark County. While hunting deer to replenish the larder, he came upon a site about three miles southeast of his camp-

ing place that seemed ideal for his needs and entered eighty acres of land in Johnson Township on the north fork of the Embarrass River, building a waterpowered grist-mill and saw-mill and later acquiring eighty additional acres. He was a good chairmaker and sold chairs over a wide area. Many of his chairs are in use today. He was a minister of the Gospel of the Church of God and introduced that faith to the Casey area of Illinois. The original land entered by him, including the mill site, is still retained in the Partlow family.

Henry Partlow, grandson of John H. Partlow, was educated in grade school. In his younger days he operated a sawmill and worked in the oil fields in the boom of 1905-1910. He moved to a farm in Casey Township in 1911 and still resides there. He is a grain and livestock farmer owning and overseeing about nine hundred acres of farmland. In 1918 he was elected to the board of directors of the Casey Bank, where he still serves. He is a former director of the Wabash Valley Fox Hunters' Association. He worships in the Restitution Church of God.

Mr. Partlow married Bertha Hills, daughter of J. M. and Viola (Johnson) Hills, at Newton on July 20, 1915. They have one son, Marion Partlow, who married Jane Alkire of Casey, and is the father of Marion Partlow, Jr., and Carole Anne Partlow. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Partlow are both well known in Clark County. Mrs. Partlow is active in the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Women of the Moose, Rebekah Lodge and the Restitution Church of God. In maintenance of the Partlow tradition, Mr. Partlow takes advantage of every opportunity for public service and for promoting the general welfare of the region.

HON. JOHN EDWARD DRISCOLL

Primarily a farmer, the Honorable John Edward Driscoll of R. F. D. 2, Charleston, is also well known for his activities in the automobile business, in the operation of a broom-corn seed company and the famed Driscoll Elevator at Rardin, not to mention his public services. He is former Supervisor of the Town of Seven Hickory and former chairman of the Coles County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Driscoll was born in that section of Charleston best described as R. F. D. 2. This was on his father's farm. The elder Mr. Driscoll—also named John—was a farmer and cattle feeder born in 1862 at Lexington, Kentucky. The mother was the former Elizabeth

McTaggart. After receiving his rural country school education, Mr. Driscoll in the Spring of 1925 started farming on his father's one hundred acre west farm, which he rented. The father died in 1927, and the son rented the home farm from his mother, making a total of three hundred acres—all his mother's farms—which he tilled.

On August 6, 1928, John Edward Driscoll married Ethel Wasson, the daughter of Monroe and Sudie Wasson of Charleston. The ceremony was performed at Arcola. To this marriage were born Pamela Jane and Kathleen Driscoll. Pamela is now Mrs. Lyle Overton, and mother of Jacqueline Kay Overton, and Mary Overton. The family worships in St. Charles Borromeo Church of Charleston. Mrs. Driscoll today is active in the Coles County Home Bureau and the Women's Council of the church.

After his marriage Mr. Driscoll continued to live on the home farm, his mother moving into Charleston. Later, however, he bought an 110-acre farm two and one-half miles north of Fair Grange, but in 1945 (eight years later) traded this farm for another about a half mile south of the home place. To this farm he moved and there he makes his home today. He has since bought eighty acres adjoining the original farm, and now his holdings total 240 acres. Also, he rents ground from Ben Anderson, a neighbor. Altogether, he now farms a total of 650 acres, including the property belonging to his mother. He raises broomcorn and feeds cattle. He bought the elevator in Rardin in 1945—the one now called the John Driscoll Elevator. He is also president of the Seaman Motor Sales, Inc., of Charleston, and a member of the firm of Wasson Broomcorn Seed Company of Charleston. He is a stockholder in the Coles County Fair Association and one of the promoters of this important urban-rural community program. Also, he is a member of the Coles County Farm Bureau and a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Charleston. He is a Democrat.

Mr. Driscoll considers politics his recreation and hobby. Through politics he has had opportunity to serve his neighbors, who, in recognition of his public interest, elected him Supervisor of the Town of Seven Hickory in April, 1933, and who named him chairman of the Coles County Board of Supervisors. He served in the former office from April, 1933, to April, 1946, and in the latter from 1940 to 1941. He has been described as "friendly, easygoing and understanding, but strong in

his convictions; possessing good judgment and a keen sense of business."

GUY CLIFTON TAYLOR, Ph.G.

Serving the entire United States and many foreign countries is a Decatur concern which as recently as 1948 was only an idea in the minds of its three founders, Guy Clifton Taylor and his two sons, Ted S. Taylor and Frank S. Taylor—the Taylor Pharmacal Company. With the father as president and the sons as closely collaborating subordinate officers, the company has had a quick rise in the field of "ethical" drug manufacture, and the sons are following the father into positions of eminence in the field.

Guy Clifton Taylor was born in Macon County on March 18, 1891, the son of Frank L. and Mary (Herbert) Taylor. Both Guy and Frank L. Taylor were born in the family homestead in Madison District, near Boody. A farmer, lawyer and prominent Republican politician, Frank L. Taylor practiced law for many years in Christian County. Guy Taylor began his education in the elementary schools first at Decatur then Assumption. Graduated from Assumption High School, he attended the University of Illinois, then Northwestern University and the University of Illinois Colleges of Pharmacy, receiving the degree of Graduate in Pharmacy. He was a noted athlete in high school and at the University of Illinois and was elected to Kappa Psi, pharmaceutical fraternity.

On August 21, 1912, Mr. Taylor married Frances Stephan, daughter of Henry W. and Ernestine Stephan of Ashton. The two sons are their only children. Ted S. Taylor is a graduate of the University of Illinois, where he majored in business administration. He is a member of the board and secretary-treasurer of Taylor Pharmacal Company, in charge of sales. He married Beverly Calhoun and is the father of Barbara Jean, David Calhoun and Donald Stanley Taylor. Frank S. Taylor, who holds the degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the State University of Iowa at Iowa City, is also a member of the company's board and is vice-president in charge of production. Unmarried (1950), he makes his home with the parents at 1584 West Riverview Avenue, Decatur. The entire family worships in Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Guy C. Taylor began his business career as a clerk in a drug store at Assumption. Then he served a pharmaceutical apprenticeship as a laboratory helper in the manufac-



HON. JOHN EDWARD DRISCOLL



ROBERT LINCOLN ABBOTT



ST. CLAIR CALLIE ABBOTT

turing laboratories of Flint, Eaton and Company, Decatur, and then received a leave of absence to complete his professional education in 1923, after which, re-entering the company's employ, he served in practically all technical capacities until 1948. In that period he established and operated control and research laboratories, organized departmental manufacturing procedure, developed ethical drug products, handled legal and scientific relations, collaborated in research work with various institutions of higher learning, including medical schools, and was active in many scientific organizations, particularly those connected with the development of new drugs and drug standards. He was an active member of the "Joint Contact Committee" set up by the Pharmaceutical Industry and the Federal Government to establish equitable standards for foods, drugs and cosmetics. He was on the Flint, Eaton directorate and vice-president in charge of production, research and control for many years. He resigned in 1948 to establish, with his sons and associates, the Taylor Pharmacal Company, which was incorporated on April 5, 1948, with laboratories at Decatur. The facilities are devoted entirely to the production of injectable medication. The company gained immediate acceptance in the field and now sells its products not only in the United States but many foreign lands. Mr. Taylor is a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association and the Masonic lodge in Decatur. He is a sports fan with a hobby of woodworking. His leadership in a business of such great importance to life and health has made him an outstanding citizen.

ST. CLAIR C. ABBOTT

"Flowers, radiant with glory, shed perfume on the air." So a poet has written.

In Champaign, St. Clair C. Abbott has since 1923 devoted himself to the growing and selling of flowers, and he now has one of the biggest businesses of its kind in the region. Aside from active participation in the community life of Champaign, Mr. Abbott is prominent in many bodies of the Masonic order, and in the Baptist Church.

He was born in Craig County, Virginia, on July 18, 1888, the son of George Washington and Mary F. (Brumfield) Abbott. His father, also a native of that county, was a stock dealer. The mother, another who was born in Virginia, was the daughter of Joseph T. Brumfield.

After completing his education in a gram-

mar school in Roanoke County, Virginia, St. Clair Abbott went into the meat and grocery business. In 1923, he entered the flower business in Champaign. He began with one glass house and boiler shed and has developed the enterprise to the point where it has six houses, a storage and boiler room and a large and attractive front sales room. At first Mr. Abbott was on North McKinley Avenue, but in 1927 he moved to 1707 West Park. Finally, in 1934, he established the business at its present address, 1501 North Prospect Avenue, Champaign. His wife has assisted him from the beginning. In 1946 his son, Robert L. Abbott, entered the business. Today the son's wife is also active. There are, in addition, seven employees.

Mrs. St. Clair C. Abbott is the former Annie F. Wells, daughter of Samuel P. and Luvenia B. Wells. She and Mr. Abbott were married in her home community, Salem, Virginia, on November 1, 1909. The son Robert is their only child. He married Dorothy L. Spencer in Champaign. The family resides at 1503 North Prospect Avenue, Champaign, amid the "radiant flowers that perfume the air." Mrs. Abbott the elder is a member of the White Shrine of Masonry, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Champaign-Urbana Woman's Club, the Women's Society of the First Baptist Church of Champaign and the Auxiliary of the United Commercial Travelers.

Mr. Abbott, well known among florists, is also active in the general business life of Champaign. He is a member of the Champaign Chamber of Commerce, the Travelers Protective Association, the United Commercial Travelers and various Masonic bodies. These last-named include the Champaign Blue Lodge, the Knights Templar, the Royal Arch Masons, the White Shrine, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Royal and Select Masons, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He has been a deacon of the First Baptist Church and superintendent of its Sunday School. Golf and boating are his favorite forms of relaxation. He is known for his attractive personality and for his sympathetic understanding of others' problems.

ROBERT L. ABBOTT

The "Son" in the firm name S. C. Abbott and Son, Florists, of Champaign, is Robert L. Abbott, who in a few years of association with his father in business has become a popular figure in the horticultural world and among the lay men and women who find in

flowers much of the beauty, inspiration and stimulation there is in life itself. Robert L. Abbott, who is a World War II veteran, is active in Champaign's civic and business life and in church circles as well as in the florist trade.

He was born in Marion County, Illinois, on July 13, 1925. His father, S. C. Abbott, born in Craig County, Virginia, is the subject of a separate biography in this Illinois history. His mother is Annie F. (Wells) Abbott, the daughter of Samuel P. and Luvenia B. Wells.

Robert Abbott went through grammar and junior high school before entering Champaign High School, from which he was graduated in 1943. At high school he was active in dramatics. He did some college study at the University of Illinois and in 1946 joined his father in the firm of S. C. Abbott and Son, Florists, at 1501 North Prospect Avenue, Champaign. He attended the Floral Designing Schools in Chicago. He is a member of the Optimist Club of Champaign-Urbana, the Champaign Chamber of Commerce, Travelers Protective Association and an officer of Illinois Unit of Telegraph Delivery Service. From June, 1944, to June, 1946, Mr. Abbott was with the United States Navy and since his separation from the active service has been in the Naval Reserve. Golf, swimming, boating and ice skating are his chief diversions.

On June 7, 1947, Mr. Abbott married Dorothy L. Spencer, daughter of Miles M. and Renatha A. Spencer. The ceremony took place in Champaign. Mrs. Abbott, who is a native of that city, was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1947, and, elected to Alpha Phi Sorority, now belongs to its alumnae group. She is active in the health and welfare agencies of Champaign and Urbana as a volunteer and teaches in the Sunday School of the First Methodist Church of Champaign. She is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Abbott is now also a member of the First Methodist Church. Before his marriage he worshipped in the Baptist Church. The Abbotts reside at 1505 North Prospect Avenue, Champaign.

One of the active young business men of the Champaign-Urbana area who are devoting themselves to the development of the entire county, he is rapidly winning a position of great prestige in the community.

HON. JOHN CHARLES NIESING

Many of the innovations and developments at Pinckneyville, seat of Perry County, may be traced to the leadership of the Honorable

John Charles Niesing. By unremitting effort, he brought paved streets to the city in place of the old cinder paths—not to mention paved roads outside the community—and he is the originator in the city of the annual Hallowe'en celebration which is community-wide. The entire county has profited from his activities. Mr. Niesing has served five generations of Pinckneyville and Perry County citizens through his clothing business, known as the J. C. Niesing Store.

Mr. Niesing was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1873, the son of Joseph Niesing, a coal miner who was drowned in a coal mine near Pinckneyville in 1880. The body of the miner, who was a native of Boston and had moved his family, with his one-year-old son John to Perry County in 1874, was not recovered until 1918. John Niesing's mother was Tresa Kierst, a native of France, who came to the United States when a young girl. Her mother died on the ship enroute to the New World. John Niesing was born fifth among seven children. The oldest daughter, Mary, is still living; in 1949 she celebrated her eighty-fourth birthday. The others, Tresa, Ella, Katie, Joseph and Anna, are all deceased.

The Pinckneyville leader received his education in the public schools of Perry County and the parochial schools of Pinckneyville. When he was twelve years old he went to work on a farm. In 1887 he hired out to Edward Thorpe, a carriage maker, with whom he served an apprenticeship as a carriage painter until 1893. For four years more he was a bartender. In 1897 Mr. Niesing became a salesclerk for the J. Solomon Clothing Store in Pinckneyville, remaining with that enterprise until 1905. Then, he and a man named Wildy formed a partnership, launching a clothing business first called Wildy and Niesing. Mr. Wildy died in 1928, and since that time Mr. Niesing has been sole owner of the enterprise. He still does business in the original building, and has customers from every part of the county and beyond.

Three years after establishing the business, Mr. Niesing married Florence Esther Ritchey, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Ritchey of Murphysboro. The actual marriage date was August 12, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Niesing are the parents of one daughter, Frances Elizabeth, now Mrs. H. W. Bishop and residing in St. Louis.

When Mr. Niesing was president of the Pinckneyville Chamber of Commerce—he held this office for fourteen years, probably a record in chamber of commerce history—he



ROBERT G. AND ROBERT I. SMITH

initiated the series of annual Hallowe'en celebrations which continue to this day, a quarter of a century after the first one. For twelve years Mr. Niesing was chairman of the board of directors of the Murphy-Wall State Bank in Pinckneyville. He has been a director of the Perry County Agricultural Society since 1924 and he is a charter and lifetime member of the DuQuoin Lodge, No. 884, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He has been a director of the Rotary Club of Pinckneyville since 1944. In 1897, he served as a member of the City Board of Aldermen and since that time he has helped the city grow from cinder paths to paved streets. He was instrumental in bringing industries, including a shoe factory, to the county seat. In the depression days, he served as chairman of the relief program for Perry County, under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Like the late President, he is a Democrat. His white hair and tall figure have come to represent influence and progress in the community, where he is greatly admired and respected.

ROBERT G. SMITH

A native of Coles County, Robert G. Smith has devoted his life to farming and to the development of that county, especially its rural areas. He is credited with an exceptional contribution to Illinois' Agriculture. A large-scale operator in the cattle-feeding phases of agriculture, Mr. Smith has also served the nation through his work with the Coles County Board of Supervisors and his membership and chairmanship of the Coles County Agricultural Adjustment Administration Committee.

Mr. Smith's birth occurred on November 2, 1889, in the very township in which he now makes his home and livelihood—North Okaw. His father, Thomas Irwin Smith, also a native of that township, was also a farmer. He was the son of Harrison Smith, a native of Tennessee, and Mary A. (Osborne) Smith, a native of Ohio, who were pioneer settlers in Illinois and who were among the early developers of the state's agriculture. Robert G. Smith's mother was Belle (Gray) Smith, the daughter of George W. and Mary E. Gray, and she was born in Humboldt Township. Mr. Smith began his education in the Smith School in Coles County and after being graduated (eighth grade), he attended the normal school at Danville, Indiana. In his youth Mr. Smith joined his father in the operation of the 320-acre family farm. They specialized in the feeding of cattle. Today—and for many

years—Mr. Smith has been feeding Aberdeen Angus cattle and he has a hundred and sixty (160) acre farm of his own in North Okaw Township. He is one of the leading figures in the cattle-feeding industry.

On February 1, 1911, at nearby Mattoon, Mr. Smith married Shella Mae Hunt, the daughter of Madison and Emma Hunt of North Okaw, Illinois. A son and daughter have been born to them—Robert Irwin Smith, who married Mae June Hulbert and they are the parents of Mary Ellis Hulbert Smith; Virginia Hunt Smith, who is now Mrs. Ross J. Hogue and the mother of Sharon Kristine Hogue. The address of the Smith farm is Rural Route No. 1, Mattoon. Mrs. Smith is a charter member of the Coles County Home Bureau, in which she is still active.

In his public activities, Mr. Smith served on the Coles County Board of Supervisors for two terms and for fourteen years, was on the Agricultural Adjustment Administration Committee, most of that time serving as chairman. He is active in the Masonic Blue Lodge in Mattoon and the Consistory of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite at Bloomington. In politics he is a Democrat. His hobbies include the breeding of Aberdeen Angus cattle, carpenter work and baseball. Mr. Smith is described as five feet nine inches tall and heavy build, light complexioned with gray hair. He wears glasses. His disposition, his friends and family say, is "good." He is highly admired in the region for his ability and sincere interest in the public welfare.

BEN DWIGHT ROBINSON

A name prominent in the agricultural life of Edgar County, Ben Dwight Robinson of Kansas holds a major position among cattle feeders, operating on farms totaling 468 acres. He is recognized as one who has made a major contribution to the development of education in the area and is a leader in Methodist Church and temperance circles.

Mr. Robinson was born on a farm south of Kansas, Edgar County, a few miles from his present residence, on February 15, 1901. His father, John William Robinson, a native of Clay City, was a prominent farmer who was the first man to serve as president of the Edgar County Farm Bureau. He was also, for several years, a member of the Illinois Agricultural Association's board of directors. His wife was Martha (Goble) Robinson, also of Edgar County, whose parents were Benjamin F. and Ann Goble.

Benjamin D. Robinson first attended the

Inclose Elementary School. Following his graduation from the Kansas High School, he majored in agriculture at the University of Illinois. When he took his degree of Bachelor of Science, it was with high honors. In 1923, he was a member of the livestock judging team at the university. He was elected to such national honorary agricultural societies as Alpha Zeta and Gamma Sigma Delta. Mr. Robinson began farming in a small way as a tenant.

On June 4, 1925, at Watseka, in Iroquois County, he married Dorothy Helen Lovelass, daughter of John and Anna Lovelass, and not only acquired a wife but a hard-working partner to whom he attributes much of his success today. In 1936, Mr. Robinson and his wife purchased a 360-acre farm at Kansas, and it is on this farm that they reside today. In 1948, they purchased another farm, consisting of 108 acres. Today Mr. Robinson has one of the most extensive and successful cattle-feeding establishments in Edgar County, with his wife sharing his success and renown. Mrs. Robinson, incidentally, is chairman of the local relations committee of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Kansas Methodist Church. She is also president of the Band Boosters Club of the Kansas High School and is leader of the Kansas Busy Bees 4-H Club. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have seven children—Wayne Robinson, who married Betty Malone; Jean, Howard, Barbara, Betty Jo, Dwight and Ruth Ann Robinson. The Robinsons' address is Rural Route 1, Kansas.

Mr. Robinson, who is charge lay leader of the Kansas Methodist Church, has been superintendent of the Sunday School since 1929 and chairman of the church board since 1939. He was on the Inclose School Board for twelve years and served on a nine-member committee that studied school conditions in Edgar County. This committee made recommendations for the reorganization of the county's educational system, and most of these recommendations were followed. Mr. Robinson is a member of the alumni association and the Dad's Association of the University of Illinois. He is an ardent worker on behalf of soil improvement and livestock development, is a staunch supporter of the Illinois Temperance Society and, despite a reputation for extreme thriftiness, is known as a "soft touch" for anyone endeavoring to raise money for a worthy cause.

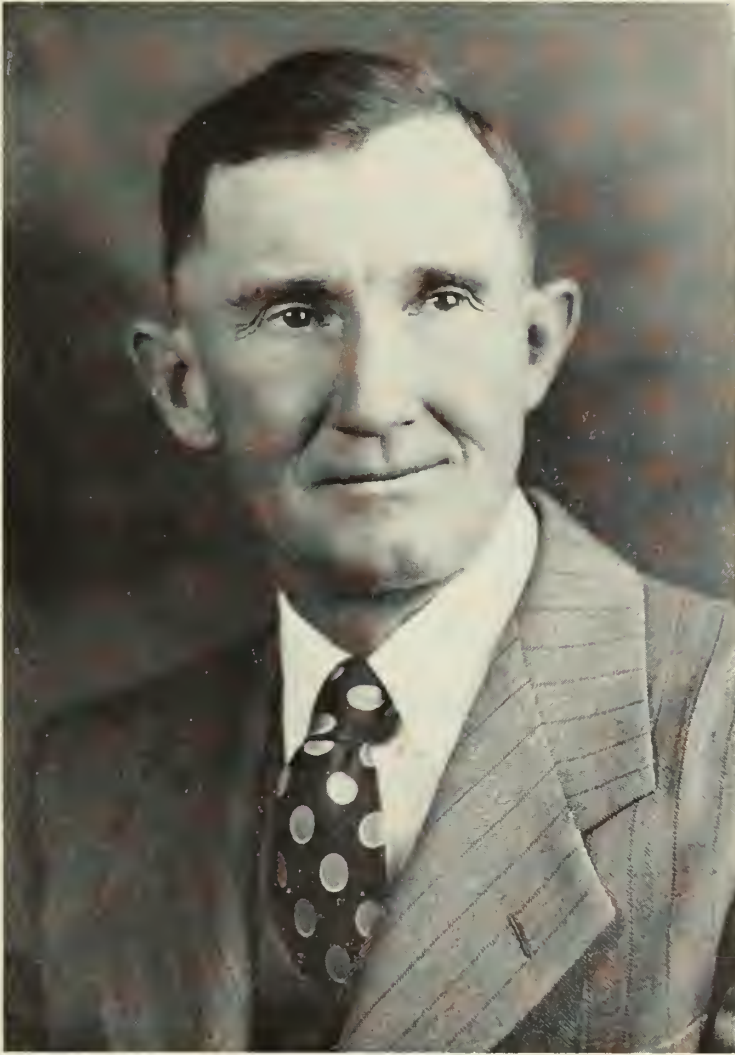
MARK C. HARRY

A prominent Coles County farmer and cattle breeder, Mark C. Harry is known throughout Illinois for his leadership in agricultural cooperative movements and in general farming organization work.

Mr. Harry was born and brought up on the farm part of which he owns and operates today. This is in Coles County, two and one-half miles northwest of Humboldt. His birth occurred on January 27, 1893, and he is the son of Clinton and Ida E. (Rankin) Harry. His father, the son of Jacob and Suzanna Harry, was born on May 21, 1857 on a farm in Coles County about six miles southeast of Humboldt. Ida Rankin Harry, daughter of Mark and Nancy Rankin, was born in Jefferson County, Tennessee, on September 5, 1864. After she and Clinton Harry married, they moved to the farm where their son lives today. Clinton Harry lived on this farm for sixty years until his death. His own father settled as a pioneer in Coles County.

Mark C. Harry was educated in a rural elementary school and at Arcola High School, graduating from the latter in 1912. On September 14, 1914, Mr. Harry married Mabel Rardin, daughter of Howard and Florence Rardin of Humboldt. Mrs. Harry attended elementary school in Humboldt and spent two years at what is now known as Eastern Illinois State College, Charleston. She taught in the public schools for three years. She has been a member of the Coles County Home Bureau, serving as officer in township and county units of this organization. Mr. and Mrs. Harry had two daughters—Emily Nancy, born in 1915, and Mildred Irene, born in 1917. The first died in 1917 through the accidental swallowing of a heart stimulant. The other died in 1920 from spinal meningitis, resulting from a fall.

After his marriage, Mr. Harry farmed in the summer seasons and worked in a Humboldt general store in the winter months. After three years of this, he returned to farming. In the Fall of 1919, he entered the garage business with a partner, Jess Lozier, but after a year returned to the home farm, on which he has since remained. From 1915 to 1924 Mr. Harry farmed 191 acres with his father. From 1924 to 1940 he farmed with his brother, Arthur Harry, at the home place. Since 1940, the year of his father's death, Mr. Harry has farmed 200 acres, all a part of his father's land. This consists of 80 acres, a part of his birthplace, two and one-half miles northwest of Humboldt, and



BEN DWIGHT ROBINSON



MARK C. HARRY

120 acres, part of his paternal grandfather's place, five miles northeast of Humboldt. He has been owner since 1940. He specializes in grain and cattle.

Mr. Harry is a charter member of the Coles County Farm Bureau, organized in 1916. He has been on its board since 1938 and been secretary-treasurer since 1941. Since November, 1948, he has been a director of the Illinois Agricultural Auditing Association and since November, 1949, of the Illinois Grain Terminal Company. Both of these are cooperatives. He has been a member of the Humboldt Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, since 1929 and has been chairman of the Coles County Agricultural Industry Committee, an organization sponsored by the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce. Even in religious affairs Mr. Harry has exercised leadership, for he is on the board of trustees of the Methodist Church of Humboldt. Coles County acknowledges him as one of those who have done the most for agricultural development and welfare.

GAIL MONTGOMERY WANLESS

The Wanless name has been renowned in Illinois for many years, especially in real estate circles and is particularly associated with the development of Springfield and the adjacent area. Gail Montgomery Wanless, as trustee of the Charles S. Wanless Trust of Springfield, is following the family tradition as realtor and builder and is also known throughout the state.

Mr. Wanless was born in Springfield on June 5, 1915. His father, Charles S. Wanless, was a noted figure in Illinois' affairs. A leader in all civic movements, he was the developer of about eighty percent of Springfield's subdivisions. He and his brother, Fred Wanless, were the two most prominent real estate brokers in Illinois. Active to the day of his death, Charles S. Wanless, creator of the trust headed by his son today, gave leadership to the American Red Cross in Sangamon County, the Springfield Young Men's Christian Association and to the war bond sales of World War II. He served two years as president of the Illinois Association of Real Estate Boards and three terms as vice-president of the Material Association of Real Estate Boards. For four years he was a committee member of the Illinois Department of Registration and Education of Real Estate Brokers. Gail M. Wanless' mother was Edith Faye (Burrows) Wanless.

Mr. Wanless was educated in a variety of

schools. Following his graduation from the Springfield High School, he spent two years at the University of Missouri at Columbia. For another year he was a student at Boulder, Colorado, in the University of Colorado. Finally, he took two years at the Lincoln College of Law in Springfield.

Mr. Wanless was approaching his twenty-fifth birthday when on February 6, 1940, he married Mary Louise Curtis. They have two children—Polly Allison Wanless, born in 1942, and Robert Curtis Wanless, born in 1945. The family worships in the First Methodist Church of Springfield.

As realtor and builder Mr. Wanless has made an extra-ordinary contribution, and he has equalled this contribution in the general field of public service, being an ardent worker on behalf of culture and the arts, social service and youth group work. He has served as treasurer of the Illinois Association of Real Estate Boards and as a director of this state organization; as secretary and director of the Springfield Real Estate Board; as a member of the budget committee of the Springfield Community Fund and as a member of the boards of directors of the Springfield Young Men's Christian Association, the Family Welfare Society of Springfield and the Springfield Symphony Orchestra Association. Also, he is a former president of the American Business Club of Springfield. In addition, he belongs to such other organizations as the National Association of Home Builders, the National Association of Real Estate Boards, the Sangamo Club of Springfield, the Illini Country Club and the Springfield Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Prominent in Masonry, he belong to all bodies, including the Jesters and Ansar Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, in Springfield. Golf is his favorite game. Not only as trustee of the Charles S. Wanless Trust but also as general citizen Gail Montgomery Wanless has aided programs which have accelerated the growth of the entire state and especially its capital city.

HORACE BATCHELOR, D.D.

One of the outstanding Presbyterian clergymen of the State of Illinois, Dr. Horace Batchelor has been pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Mattoon in Coles County since 1925. Renowned in Masonry, Dr. Batchelor holds its highest degree—the thirty-third. He is also well known for his work on behalf of health and welfare, the aged and of education and culture. He is also prominent in

Kiwanis International. As a churchman, he has held some of the highest posts in the Presbyterian Synod of Illinois. He has a reputation in lay circles, as well as religious, as a speaker.

Dr. Batchelor was born at Eastbourne, England, on July 17, 1887, the son of Alfred Horace and Anne Elizabeth (Gosden) Batchelor. His father, born near Maidstone, Kent, England, owned and operated a blacksmith-wheelwright's establishment; he served with the English Army in India six years. The mother was a member of the famed Bradford family of Southern England, earlier members of which emigrated to America and doubtless started the distinguished Massachusetts Bradford line. Dr. Batchelor obtained his early education in English grammar and secondary schools, at Northwest Collegiate School and Northland College and the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. In 1921, he was graduated from the McCormick Theological Seminary and in 1936 he received the degree of Bachelor of Divinity from Auburn Theological Seminary, New York, and in 1940 that of Doctor of Divinity from James Millikin University. He has since taken summer courses in Christian Education at McCormick Theological Seminary.

Dr. Batchelor was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in Seymour, Wisconsin, in 1914. In his student ministry days, he served a pastorate at Bruce, Wisconsin, in 1911-1912, and from 1912 to 1917 he was at Seymour. For another year, 1917-1918, he served at Birnamwood, Wisconsin. The period at McCormick followed and in the Winter of 1921 he was accepted from the Congregational ministry to the Presbyterian ministry in the Chicago Presbytery. His Presbyterian pastorates since then: Ridgefarm and Georgetown, 1921-1922; Tuscola, seat of Douglas County, Illinois 1922-1925, and since 1925, Mattoon. His Mattoon pastorate is the longest in the history of this church, which in 1950 celebrated its ninetieth anniversary. Dr. Batchelor is past moderator of the Mattoon Presbytery and of the Presbyterian Synod of Illinois. He has also served on the Synod's General Council.

On June 8, 1911, at Pittsville, Dr. Batchelor married Stella Belle Potter, daughter of J. D. and Martha Potter. Mrs. Batchelor is a former school teacher and is active in PTA and other organizational work in Mattoon. Dr. and Mrs. Batchelor have a daughter, Glorene, now Mrs. Gilbert Vernon Wheeler and residing at Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Dr. Batchelor is chairman of the board of Kemmer Orphanage at Assumption; of the board of the Cora J. Pope Home for Old Ladies at Ottawa; and of the board of trustees of Millikin University and of the Mattoon Public Library. He serves on the board of the Mattoon Salvation Army and is on the Special Hospital Committee and the Governor's Midcentury Welfare Committee. He served in various Kiwanis offices, from president of the Mattoon Club through District Governor and chairman of the International Committee in Support of Church in their Spiritual Aims. He is past master of his Blue Lodge, A. F. and A. M.; past high priest and past grand chaplain, R. A. M.; past thrice illustrious master and past grand chaplain for Illinois, R. S. M.; past commander of his commandery and past grand prelate for Illinois, Knights Templar; past sovereign, Red Cross of Constantine (Saxa Rubra Chapter); member of Ainad Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., East St. Louis. After twenty years as a thirty-second degree holder in the Scottish Rite of the Northern Jurisdiction, he was raised to the thirty-third degree. In World War I, he was a four-minute man and headed up Liberty Bond campaigns. Travel is his hobby, and he has visited Europe twice since the days of his emigration to America. He visits Canada and Mexico and other parts of the United States frequently. Dr. Batchelor has made a permanent place for himself in the annals of Presbyterian, interdenominational and temporal affairs in Illinois.

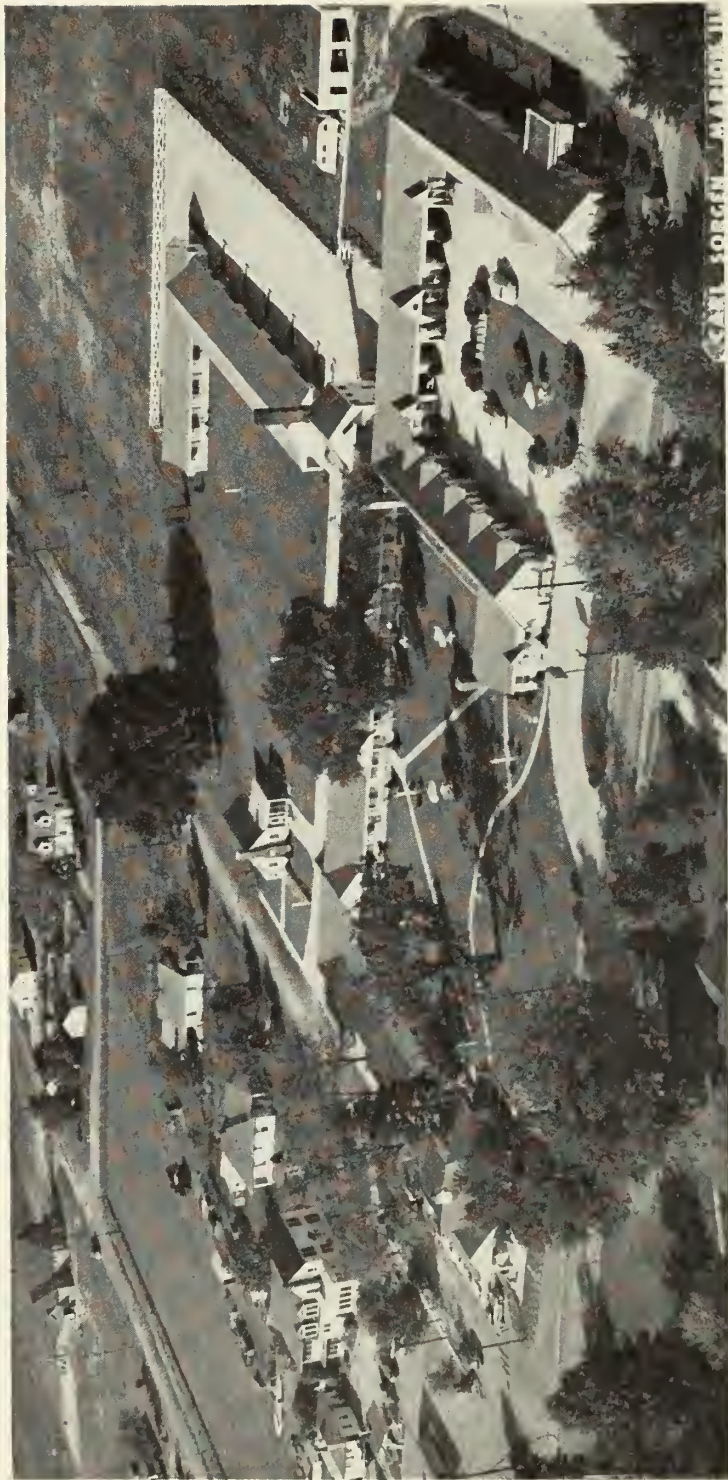
RALPH THURMOND

Ralph Thurmond of Marion, in Williamson County, builds monuments—he operates the Thurmond Monument Company, serving at least a third of the State of Illinois. But perhaps the best monument he has ever built to his own enterprise, ingenuity and civic feeling is the famed Motel Marion—a splendid and popular group of units which proved to be the first motor court to be accepted for membership in the National and Illinois Hotel Associations. In addition to the Motel Marion and the Thurmond Monument Company, Mr. Thurmond operates the Buick automobile agency in Marion and owns a third interest in a monument manufacturing plant at Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Thurmond was born in Ewing, Franklin County, on January 6, 1896, the son of E. M. and Ida (Ingram) Thurmond. Both parents were also born in Franklin County. The father, at first a farmer, moved into Ma-



HORACE BATCHELOR, D.D.



AERIAL VIEW OF MOTEL MARION, MARION



RALPH THURMOND

·rion and established the Thurmond Monument Works. A civic leader, he became Mayor and was also active in the Methodist Church. Ralph Thurmond first attended the grade schools of Franklin and Williamson Counties, then spent three years in the high school at Marion. While still in school, he worked in a grocery store and when he left school he worked for a construction company first as timekeeper and then as superintendent. When he first entered the monument business, it was for himself at Benton. He called the enterprise the Benton Marble and Granite Works. The Army took him away from this business in World War I, and he served from 1917 to 1919, achieving the rank of Sergeant. Upon his discharge he returned to Marion and joined his father in the operation of the Thurmond Monument Company. In 1926, he became the elder Mr. Thurmond's partner and soon afterward he bought him out altogether. Since then he has been sole owner of this highly successful business. He now employs forty-five persons. Through the business Mr. Thurmond is active in the Monument Builders of America.

In 1941 Mr. Thurmond proceeded to establish Motel Marion on the major highway. At the outset he built sixteen units. Six years later he added another sixteen units and a modern coffee shop, later adding eighteen units making a grand total of fifty units. The entire motel stands on a large acreage, exceptionally landscaped, and the service compares favorably with that of the nation's best hotels. Because of this fact and because the rooms and furnishings meet the highest standards, Motel Marion was admitted to membership in the two hotel associations. Forty persons are employed at the motel.

Since 1946 Mr. Thurmond has operated the Buick agency in Marion, and through it belongs to the National Automobile Dealers, the Illinois Automotive Dealers and the Williamson County Automobile Dealers Associations. He operates branches of his monument business at Murphysboro, Benton and Sessor, in addition to owning a third interest in the monument plant in Kansas City. Mr. Thurmond is a director of the Bank of Marion. For a quarter century Mr. Thurmond has maintained a record of perfect attendance in the Rotary Club of Marion and he is also active in Southern Illinois, Inc. He is a former member of the Marion Chamber of Commerce. His recreational organization is the Franklin Country Club. He plays golf and

rides horses, and at one time flew his own plane.

On July 27, 1919 Mr. Thurmond married Helen Norris, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Harley D. Norris of Marion. They worship in the Methodist Church.

As the record of his activities indicates, Ralph Thurmond has spent a lifetime in service which has contributed to the growth of his area.

JOHN WILLIAM ROBINSON

Kansas is a small community in Edgar County, but one noted for its great agricultural strides and experimentation and its generally high economic and cultural level. Much of the progress this village and the surrounding agricultural area has achieved is ascribed by the citizens to the leadership and activities of John William Robinson, an outstanding farmer, hog breeder and cattle feeder. Mr. Robinson has done considerable organization work among farmers and led them in many movements which have resulted in considerable benefit to the area.

He was born at Clay City, Clay County, on November 6, 1867, the son of Alexander and Sarah Pitner (Bayler) Robinson. His father, born in Fermanagh County, Ireland, on December 12, 1839, came to the United States with his family when he was twelve years old. Enlisting in Wayne County, he fought with the Union Army in the Civil War. Later he taught school and then farmed in Clay County. Throughout his life he was a faithful worker in the United Brethren Church. His wife, whom he married on November 2, 1865, was the daughter of John Miller and Nancy Bayler. Their son, John William Robinson, began his education in a country school in his native Clay County. In 1894, he was graduated from Westfield College, Westfield, Illinois, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. For three years Mr. Robinson taught school. Then he bought an 80-acre farm and began farming in 1896. He has farmed ever since, and now owns 340 acres, 220 in Edgar County and 120 in Coles County. He has done general farming, raising hogs and feeding cattle, and has become a noteworthy figure in the agricultural world.

On August 28, 1894, in the bride's home in Hutton Township, Coles County, Mr. Robinson married Martha Jane Goble, the daughter of Benjamin F. and Ann Goble. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have four children—1. Myra Jane, born August 11, 1896, unmar-

ried. 2. Hobart Clay, born April 25, 1899. He married Florence Bryant Pursell on December 23, 1924. Their children are: Martha Jane, born December 30, 1925, who married Eli Hurt on February 16, 1946, and is the mother of Nancy Jane, born December 2, 1946; John Waldo Robinson, born January 21, 1927, who married Mary Kay Funkhouser on October 21, 1947, and is the father of Mary Elizabeth Robinson, born on October 26, 1948; Florence Ann Robinson, born December 30, 1928, who was married to Arthur Rennels on December 5, 1947, and is the mother of Bill Rennels, born November 7, 1948; Nancy Kathryn Robinson, born August 21, 1930, died April 7, 1937; Margaret Louise Robinson, born November 22, 1932; Robert Seymour Robinson, born December 25, 1934, and Sarah Elizabeth Robinson, born January 15, 1937. 3. Benjamin Dwight Robinson, born February 15, 1901. He married Dorothy Helen Loveless on June 4, 1925. Their children are: Wayne Benjamin Robinson, born on June 1, 1926, who married Betty Malone on December 24, 1948, and is the father of Thomas Wayne Robinson, born January 14, 1950; Frances Jean Robinson, born April 7, 1928; Howard William Robinson, born April 8, 1930; Barbara Helen Robinson, born November 30, 1931; Betty Joan Robinson, born April 25, 1933; Dwight Russel Robinson, born March 14, 1941, and Ruth Ann Robinson, born October 15, 1942. 4. Wendell Wayne Robinson, born on July 2, 1908. He married Mildred Kropp on June 19, 1937, and is the father of Joan Ellen Robinson, born December 3, 1938. The entire family worships in the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Mr. Robinson was a school director for ten years. He was leading organizer and first president of the Edgar County Farm Bureau and represented the district on the Illinois Agricultural Association board, serving as 4-H Club work chairman. He has always been willing to experiment and to give leadership.

ROBERT DAVIS McDUGAL, JR.

As head of two construction companies Robert Davis McDougal, Jr., of Peoria, is contributing to the development of Illinois through the building of highways, railroads, levees, airports and similarly large and significant projects. His companies are Swords, McDougal Co., and S. M. H. Construction Company, both with headquarters in Peoria. He is well known among contractors in other

parts of the nation and is active in Peoria's community life.

Mr. McDougal was born in Peoria on October 28, 1896, the son of Robert Davis and Virginia (Wheeler) McDougal. Both his parents were also natives of Peoria. The father, a druggist, died in 1939, the mother in 1901. R. D. McDougal, Jr., received his early education in the elementary schools of Peoria, and his preparatory schooling at Lawrenceville, New Jersey. He was at Princeton University in New Jersey when the United States entered World War I. He left the university and enlisted in the American Field Service and later joined the United States Army Ambulance Corps, with which he served in France until May, 1919. While in France he was awarded the Croix de Guerre.

After his return to Peoria and civilian life, Mr. McDougal worked a year for the firm of Thomas and Clark. In 1920 he joined the staff of Thede Brothers, Inc., of Peoria, a firm with which he worked ten years. At the time he resigned in 1930 he was holding the office of secretary and treasurer. In 1930, Mr. McDougal participated in the organization of Swords—McDougal Company, becoming secretary and treasurer. This concern has done such heavy construction work as the building of railroads, levees and airports. It now employs one hundred persons and covers the United States. Mr. McDougal was elected president of the company in 1947. In 1946, he founded the S. M. H. Construction Company, Inc., and was also secretary and treasurer of this at the outset. Today he is president, having been elected to that office in 1947. The S. M. H. company specializes in road building. Its territory is all of Illinois, and it employs two hundred persons. The offices for both concerns are at 1500 North Adams Street, Peoria.

On June 26, 1920, Mr. McDougal married Alice Beadle of Galesburg, the daughter of Grant Beadle, a native of Kewanee and an architect who died in 1930, and Ann (Mathews) Beadle, born in Galesburg, who died in 1927. Mr. and Mrs. McDougal are the parents of two children—Virginia McDougal, who was born on December 20, 1922, and is now the wife of William Barnes, III, of Decatur, and the mother of William Barnes and Leticia Mathews Barnes; and Robert Davis McDougal III, who was born on April 21, 1924, attended Lawrenceville Preparatory School and graduated from the University of Florida in 1949. He married Virginia Dodge of Chicago on August 31, 1949. Mr.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN WILLIAM ROBINSON



DELBERT O. WILLIAMS

and Mrs. McDongal reside at 4 Prospect Lane in Peoria.

Mr. McDougal is a member of the Associated General Contractors of America, the Peoria Association of Commerce, the Peoria Country Club, the Princeton Club of New York, the Colonial Club of Princeton and the Creve Coeur Club. Golf, fishing and hunting are his favorite recreations. Through his construction of big projects Mr. McDougal has become a first citizen of the state and nation.

DELBERT O. WILLIAMS

Outstanding in the cleaning and dyeing business, Delbert O. Williams is operator of the Illinois Cleaners with plants in both Champaign and Urbana. He is one of the leading citizens of the two communities, especially in Urbana where he maintains his main establishment, and is a veteran of World War II who is active in veterans, business, trade and fraternal organizations and in church work.

Delbert O. Williams was born in Georgetown, Illinois, on March 19, 1919, the only child of Henry and Fairl (Bridgewater) Williams. His father, a coal miner, is also a native of Illinois, as is his mother.

Delbert Williams began his education in the elementary grades at Georgetown, but soon transferred to the educational system of Danville where he was graduated from high school. He began his career in 1937 as a laborer for the Stella Baking Company of Danville. Four years later he moved to Champaign and there became a dough mixer for the Purity Baking Company. This job he gave up to enter the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad with which he remained two years.

On January 18, 1945, Mr. Williams entered the dry cleaning and dyeing business with a partner. Four months later he bought out the partner and since then has been sole owner of the business, now called Illinois Cleaners. He has guided the enterprise to extraordinary expansion and in January, 1947, built himself a modern dry cleaning establishment in Urbana—at 402 North Broadway. His Champaign branch is at 209 East Green Street. When he entered his present field of business, Mr. Williams and his partner did all the work themselves. Today Mr. Williams employs twenty-five persons. His is one of the larger dry cleaning organizations of the Champaign-Urbana area.

Mr. Williams is a member of the Champaign Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Or-

der of Elks; the Masonic fraternity; the National Cleaners and Dyers Association; the Urbana Chamber of Commerce; the Urbana Campus Business Men's Association; the Sportsman's Club and the American Legion. In World War II, he served with the United States Navy. He enlisted on May 9, 1944, and was separated from the service on October 9, 1944. He is a member of the Methodist Church of Danville and is an independent voter. He is an ardent hunter and fisherman.

Mr. Williams first married June Paddin of Danville on April 9, 1938. He married Mary Gepner of Champaign on October 20, 1948. To his first marriage three children were born—Beryldene Williams, on August 14, 1939; Rowland Lee Williams, on August 19, 1941, and Joyce Williams, on January 11, 1943. Mr. Williams and his family reside at 404 South Race Street, Urbana.

Through his activities on the business scene and his other interests Mr. Williams is stimulating the growth of a large segment of Champaign County.

JOHN EARLE LONG

In Coles County, the name of Long has become synonymous with public service—public service by the late John Earle Long and by his widow, Bobbie Ruth Barnett Long. Mr. Long's contribution to the county was through both banking and agriculture, through activities with the board of education, through fraternal organizations and through a wisdom which aided others toward their own success. Mrs. Long, a former school teacher, serves through her activities in church and school organizations and as Town Clerk of Morgan Township, outside Charleston, the Coles County seat.

John Earle Long was born at Charleston—which is to say its Rural Route 3 and hence on a farm—on April 27, 1901. In the next thirty-seven years, until his tragic death, he was to give considerable prominence to the Long name and to make a memorable record for himself. His father, Calvert Long, a native of Spencer, Indiana, was also engaged in farming. His mother was Laura Ellen (Rardin) Long, the daughter of J. K. and Mary Ann (Sousley) Rardin, a pioneer family of Morgan Township—the family from which the community of Rardin, in Coles County, derives its name.

Mr. Long obtained his education in the elementary school at Rardin and in the Eastern Illinois State College at Charleston. When

he was eleven years old, his father died. Left a half-orphan at that early age, with no brothers or sisters, and a rather frail mother, Mr. Long assumed the management of the 260-acre home farm and despite his extreme youthfulness guided it to success. He became interested in purebred cattle and at the time of his own untimely death possessed a choice breeding herd of Aberdeen-Angus. At the age of twenty-three Mr. Long entered the banking business. He served as clerk of the Rardin State Bank at Rardin a short time and then became cashier. He held that office for ten years, or until his death.

On June 9, 1929, in the Methodist Church at Hindsboro, Mr. Long married Bobbie Ruth Barnett, the daughter of Roy and Nettie Barnett. To the marriage was born John Earle Long on December 16, 1935. At the age of two, the son, like his father at only a little older age, was left a half-orphan, for on September 16, 1938, the farmer-banker met his death. He had gone home for lunch that day. Returning to his bank, he was killed in a collision of his automobile and a train about a half mile from his home. The accident occurred at Rardin. He was buried at Union Cemetery, located only three miles from his birthplace.

Mr. Long was serving as secretary of the board of education at the time of his death, and he was a stockholder of the Rardin State Bank. He was past worshipful master of his Masonic Lodge and past worthy patron of his chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. He was also active in the Charleston Country Club. He was an ardent Democrat and a baseball and basketball fan, as well as golf player.

Upon his death Mrs. Long took over management of the Long farm. An elementary school teacher at Hindsboro, a position she continued to hold for six years after marriage, Mrs. Long is now active in all civic work, in politics, in the Rardin Presbyterian Church, in school organizations and in the Business and Professional Women's Club. She has been Town Clerk of Morgan Township since 1942. She is as popular as was her husband, whose friends remember him for his fairmindedness, neat appearance, cheerful disposition, straightforwardness and willingness to work in and support every worthwhile project.

WARREN LINELL DECATUR

Member of the celebrated Decatur family who like his illustrious ancestor has a dis-

tinguished Naval record, Warren Linell Decatur is now in the electrical contracting business in the city bearing his family name—Decatur. He is active in professional and trade organizations and in various civic and Masonic groups, being an influential citizen of Macon County.

Warren Linell Decatur was born on April 17, 1917, at West Suburban Hospital, Oak Park, Illinois. His father, Warren Edgar Decatur, was born in Chicago and his grandfather, Herbert Phillip Decatur, in Boston, Massachusetts. He is a direct descendant of Stephen Decatur, the Naval hero after whom the Macon County seat was named. His father's mother, the former Louise Matilda Miller, was a native of the Isle of Wight in the English Channel. Warren Linell Decatur's mother was the former Estelle Edith Linell, a native of Chicago and daughter of Pearl Phillip and Ida (Fleige) Linell.

Warren L. Decatur attended Oak Park and River Forest High Schools and then Armour Institute of Technology, receiving his degree in mechanical engineering at the latter. From 1935 to 1946 he was employed by Hotpoint, Inc., in Chicago. He started as a mailboy and for a time worked in the accounting and statistical departments. With other Hotpoint employees he took the examinations to qualify for the cooperative course at Armour Institute and he became the first Hotpoint Co-op student. Before he was finally assigned to the engineering department of Hotpoint, Mr. Decatur worked in all the other factory departments. In World War II he played an important role in the secret Naval projects conducted by Hotpoint and as a result received, at the close of the war, the Naval Ordnance Development Award. In September, 1946, he purchased the electrical contracting business which he operates in Decatur today, with headquarters at 124 North Merchant Street.

In 1944, at the Elmhurst Congregational Church, Elmhurst, Mr. Decatur married Lorraine E. Grimm, the daughter of Frank and Ingre Grimm. Mrs. Decatur, well known in both Decatur and Elmhurst, is a member of the chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in the latter community. She and Mr. Decatur are the parents of one son, William Robert Decatur, who was born on September 28, 1947. The Decatur home is at the South Side Country Club in Decatur.

Mr. Decatur, active in community projects, is a member of the Decatur Association of Commerce, the National Electrical Con-



JOHN EARLE LONG



WARREN LINELL DECATUR

tractors Association, the Illuminating Engineering Society, the Rotary Club of Decatur and, with his family, of the St. John's Episcopal Church, Decatur. In Masonry, he was president of the High Twelve International in 1949. He belongs to the Edward Cook Lodge, No. 1023, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Oak Park; Macon Chapter, No. 21, Royal Arch Masons; Decatur Council, No. 16, Royal and Select Masons, and Beaumanoir Commandery, No. 9, Knights Templar, the latter three in Decatur. He is a Republican. His favorite recreational activities are golf, photography and magic. A man described as of "amiable disposition, who gets along well with people," Mr. Decatur has made a reputation for himself and added to the illustrious reputation of the great Decatur family.

NORMAN REMINGTON HALLIDAY

Founded in 1896, the H. H. Halliday Sand Company of Cairo is famed throughout the Greater Egypt region and its co-owner and general manager, Norman Remington Halliday, is a popular figure not only among his fellow citizens in the region but among fellow operators in the sand and gravel business in all parts of the United States. Mr. Halliday, a veteran of World War I, is active in veterans and civic affairs at Cairo and in Alexander County as a whole.

Born at Centralia, in Marion County, on August 13, 1885, Mr. Halliday is the youngest of the two children of William Remington and Frances (Rexford) Halliday, and the grandson of Samuel Halliday, a native of Ohio who settled in Cairo before the Civil War and became cashier of the City National Bank of Cairo. William Remington Halliday, also born at Cairo, was in the contracting business for years. He was one of the founders of the H. H. Halliday Sand Company. Frances Rexford Halliday, born in Northern Illinois, was a member of a family which came to this State from New York State, where her father was a hotel keeper. Norman Halliday has a sister, Mrs. Jule Severns.

Mr. Halliday was educated in Cairo's public schools, being graduated from the Cairo High School in 1903, when he was eighteen. That year he became a clerk in the City National Bank of Cairo but soon after went to Parma, Idaho, where he worked for a time for the Parma Bank. In 1906, he returned to Cairo and re-entered the employ of the City National Bank, taking charge of the records of loans and the foreign exchange department and remaining until 1910. In that year he

went to work as an assistant to his father at the H. H. Halliday Sand Company. Subsequently he was made a partner and today he is co-owner and general manager. In business nearly six decades, the H. H. Halliday Sand Company produces sand and gravel by dredging the Ohio River. It sells its products in all sections of Southern Illinois and employs thirty persons.

Norman Halliday and Laura Clendenen, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor C. Clendenen, the former a one-time superintendent of schools in Cairo, were married in that city on March 22, 1920. Mr. and Mrs. Halliday have one son, Norman Remington Halliday, Jr., who was born on February 7, 1923, and who, in 1949, was graduated from Northwestern University, Evanston.

The senior Mr. Halliday served as a Captain in the Army Quartermaster Corps in World War I. He was in charge of transport work at Brest, France, for a time. Today he is active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and also in the Cairo Association of Commerce, the Cairo Lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and in the Egyptian Country Club. He is a former member of the Rotary Club of Cairo. In politics he is a Democrat. At one time Mr. Halliday was fond of hunting and golf. Today he finds recreation in his business and homelife. He is a former director of the National Sand and Gravel Association and is also active in the Illinois Sand and Gravel Association. His activities have done much to forward progress in Southern Illinois.

HON. GEORGE ANDREW KIZER

Throughout his life the Honorable George Andrew Kizer so conducted himself as to leave his impress upon his native Illinois and to be an inspiration for men of later generations. A leader in business life at Mattoon, he was also an important figure in political and public affairs, playing an outstanding role in Coles County and State of Illinois Democratic circles and serving Mattoon as first alderman and then Mayor. Among his business interests were the wholesale liquor concern known as George A. Kizer Company of Mattoon and the Mattoon Theater. Since his death in 1935, his daughter, Mrs. Zeniar Kizer Edwards, has carried on these enterprises and the Kizer traditions in general, and has herself assumed a position of importance in the community.

George Andrew Kizer was born in Chris-

tian County, Illinois, on July 9, 1871, the son of Dyal Worth and Mary (Tabor) Kizer who was born in Jackson County, Indiana, and was the daughter of John and Sara Tabor. His father, also a native of Christian County, was engaged in farming. He died at an early age. His paternal grandfather was a prominent farmer and landowner of Christian County, Illinois. His paternal grandmother was Sara Davis Kizer of the pioneer Davis family of Sangamon County, who were prominent bankers of Springfield, Illinois. His uncle was Pierce Kizer of Mechanicsburg, a lawyer and member of the Illinois State Legislature. George Andrew Kizer had two brothers—David and John Kizer.

Mr. Kizer was educated in the schools of Christian County. In early life he farmed. Then, after moving into Mattoon, he was engaged in the grain brokerage business in that city and in Decatur. This began about 1895. From 1907 to 1912 Mr. Kizer was in the liquor business at Mattoon, but this he left to enter the real estate business, also in Mattoon. He remained in the real estate field until 1914, when he turned to the automobile business, which he operated while also looking after his farming interests. He had automobile agencies in Mattoon, Charleston, Arcola and Sullivan. In 1931, Mr. Kizer retired, only to return to activity in 1933 by starting the present wholesale liquor house of George A. Kizer Company of Mattoon.

On August 7, 1894, Mr. Kizer married Nancy Margaret Galloway, daughter of John and Julia (Bland) Galloway of Mattoon. Her parents came from Madison County, Kentucky. Three children were born to the marriage. One, a daughter, died in infancy. The son died at the age of twelve. Of the three children, Zeniar Kizer Edwards survives. A graduate of Mattoon elementary and high schools, Mrs. Edwards attended Ward-Belmont Junior College in Nashville, Tennessee, for two years and then completed her education at the University of Illinois, which awarded her the degree of Bachelor of Arts. She was elected to Alpha Xi Delta Sorority. In 1924 she married Dr. Donald Hall Edwards of Berea, Kentucky. He died in 1929. Mrs. Edwards became associated with her father in all his business enterprises immediately after completing her education.

Mr. Kizer, who was active in all civic enterprises, served on the board of directors of the Mattoon Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the Mattoon Lodge, Knights of Pythias; the Mattoon Lodge, Loyal

Order of Moose, and the Modern Woodmen. He built and named the Mattoon Theater. He contributed generously toward all local enterprises.

For years a prominent figure in the Democratic Party, Mr. Kizer served as its chairman in Coles County for eight terms and was on the State Central Committee from Ward 7 for thirty-eight years. He served as alderman for six terms and as Mayor of Mattoon from May 1, 1921, to May 1, 1923. He worshiped in the Congregational Church. His death occurred on May 30, 1935, and he was buried at Dodge Grove Cemetery in Mattoon. Since then his daughter has carried on his interests.

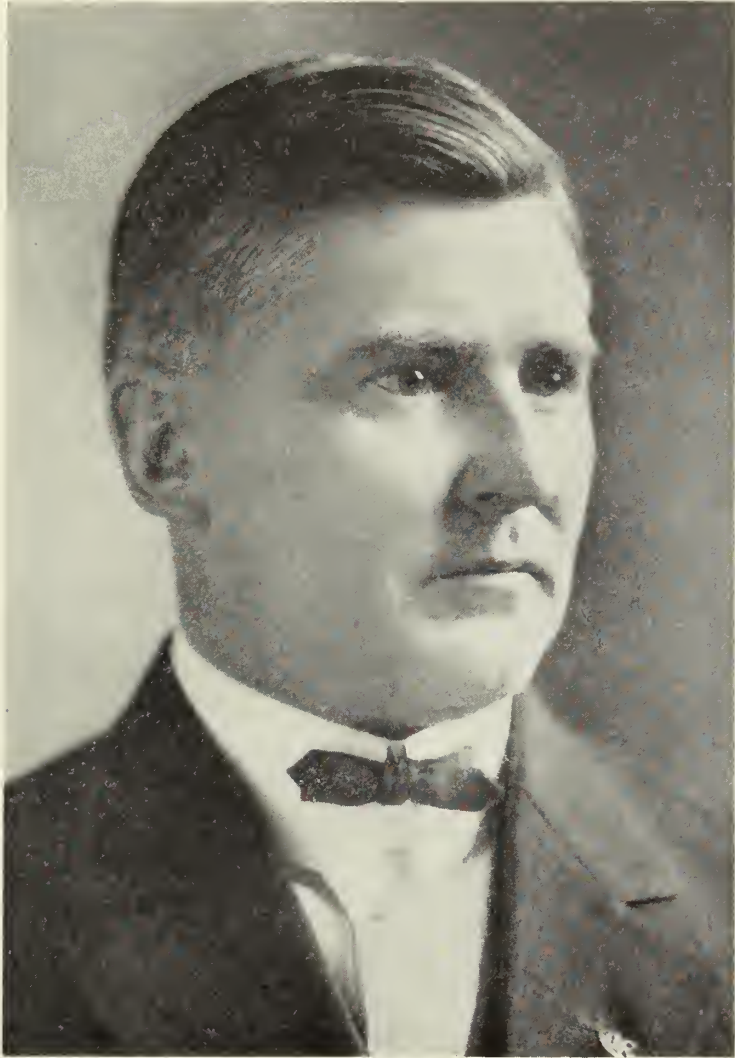
With each passing year the community becomes more intensely aware of the contribution this great citizen made to its continued growth and well-being, a contribution that is being continued by his daughter, Mrs. Edwards.

FREDERICK WEBSTER WHITE

In the year 1936 Frederick Webster White was chosen Mattoon Citizen No. 1 by the American Business Club. But though Mr. White was singled out for one year, he has been an outstanding citizen of Mattoon for years before 1936 and every year since then. He is the owner and operator of a plumbing contracting business he operates under the firm name of Fred White, in Mattoon. He is associated with the National Bank of Mattoon and at various times has been a member of the board of commissioners of the Mattoon Water Department and headed various civic and other organizations. He is a veteran of the Spanish-American War.

Mr. White was born in Saginaw, Michigan, on July 20, 1880, the son of Thomas Crowell and Agnes (Maxwell) White. His father born in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, in 1846, died at Charleston, seat of Coles County, in 1921. Mrs. Agnes White, born in Liverpool, England, in 1854, died in Charleston in 1935. Frederick White began his education in the grade schools of Negaunee, Michigan, in 1887 and completed the eighth grade in 1894.

On his sixteenth birthday in 1896, he began learning the plumber's trade with Tuxhorn Brothers of Edwardsville, in Madison County, Illinois. Seven years later, he bought the H. Reasor and Son plumbing shop in Charleston. This he sold in 1906. He then worked for the W. S. Heater Company of Detroit from 1906 to 1910, and in the latter year bought Mr. Berthold's interest in the



HON. GEORGE ANDREW KIZER



FREDERICK WEBSTER WHITE

firm of Berthold and Hanson, plumbing contractors, located at 116 North 16th Street, Mattoon, Illinois. At that time the firm name was changed to White and Hanson. In 1918 Mr. White bought out his partner's interest and gave the firm his own name, Fred White. Until the United States entered World War II, he operated branch shops in Effingham, Decatur and Charleston. He has handled some of the biggest plumbing contracts in Central Illinois.

Mr. White married Cora Belle Henley, daughter of William and Nancy Henley, in Charleston, Illinois. Born in the region south of Arcola on December 12, 1877, Mrs. White died in Mattoon on October 17, 1946. She was active in civic and church affairs, serving at one time as president of the Parent-Teacher Association of the Lowell District in Mattoon and as a director of the Christian Science Church of that city. Mr. and Mrs. White became the parents of two children, Dorothy Belle and Fred Henley White. Dorothy Belle White, born on November 24, 1905, married J. Logan Gover in 1932, and is the mother of James White Gover, born November 7, 1932; Jean Gover, born April 7, 1934; Sara Gover, born April 9, 1936; Ann Gover, born March 10, 1942; Thomas Andrew Gover, born May 11, 1944, and Mary Gover, born December 4, 1948. Fred Henley White was born in Mattoon on December 15, 1911. He married Pauline Lanter on December 15, 1939, and they have the following children: Fred Stuart White, born September 15, 1940; Paul Joseph White, born July 3, 1945, and Philip Lanter White, born July 3, 1945. All of Mr. White's grandchildren were born in Mattoon.

Mr. White has been on the Water Department board several different times. He was president of the Mattoon Association of Commerce and of the Mattoon Country Club, and his civic achievements brought him the award as Mattoon's Citizen No. 1 for the year 1931. He served in the United States Army from July 11, 1898 to February 28, 1899. He served in a siege battery at Tampa, Florida. He is also a Christian Scientist. Golf has been Mr. White's leading recreation. He made a hole in one in 1943 and in 1947 and was club champion in 1941 and 1947. He tied the course record by a score of 31. The record is shared by three other players and has not been lowered in twenty-eight years.

Mr. White's service to his community continues to be of distinguished character.

TRUMAN JUDSON SANNER

Truman Judson Sanner of Mattoon has created an enviable position for himself in the regard that the citizens of his adopted city hold for him. He has done this through civic activity and leadership that has brought him in direct contact with a large percentage of the people of Mattoon.

Mr. Sanner is a native of Decatur, his birth having occurred on May 26th, 1914. His father, Truman Quintus Sanner was born in Shelby County, Illinois, and became a farmer and land owner. His mother was Bernice Ann (Jones) Sanner, the daughter of John W., and Catharine A. Jones. His elementary education was secured in the public grade and high school of Mt. Zion, Illinois, and he took extension work from Eastern Illinois Teachers College in 1940 and from the University of Illinois in 1941. He became a resident student at James Millikin University, where he majored in economics and business administration, receiving the Bachelor of Science degree in 1941.

Even before he had completed his formal education, Mr. Sanner began his business career as bookkeeper for the Mattoon Baking Company on February 6, 1938. He has continued that association since that time and is now office manager for the same concern. At the same time he is employed by the Victor Drilling Company as an accountant and does other outside tax assistance work. He is recognized as an authority on complicated tax matters and keeps constantly informed on new laws dealing with local, state and national taxes.

Possessing a keen interest and definite talent for music, Mr. Sanner became a violinist with the Millikin Civic Symphony Orchestra while a student, 1934-38. This interest has continued and he later became treasurer of the Mattoon Civic Music Association and a member of the choir of the Presbyterian Church. He has also served as secretary of the Mattoon Park Board, and as a member of the Mattoon Recreational Board. He is a charter member of the Mattoon Lions Club and, having served as its treasurer and vice president, is now president of that club.

On February 17, 1946, Mr. Sanner was married to Miss Juanita Elaine Martin, in the First Christian Church of Mattoon. Mrs. Sanner is the daughter of the late Mr. Ernest Martin and Mrs. Alma Martin. The Sanners have two children: Judith Ann, born September 3, 1947, and Susan Elaine, born June 29, 1949.

Mr. Sanner derives his greatest enjoyment from his public activities which enter in park administration and development and in music, in both of which he renders a district service to his community. He is of medium build, standing five feet and seven inches and weighing one hundred and sixty pounds. He is fair of complexion and has blue eyes and light brown hair. He is even tempered, steady and congenial, all of which make a man that it is a pleasure to know.

HARRY ARTHUR MITCHELL

In the State of Illinois there are about two million automobiles and about 300,000 trucks officially registered with the Automobile Department of the Office of the Secretary of State, at Springfield. Of this number of vehicles Harry Arthur Mitchell has, in the course of his career, supplied thousands—either as a salesman and executive employed by others or as a used or new car dealer. In such a career it is natural that Mr. Mitchell, whose career for years has been centered at Peoria, should be well-known throughout his native state. He is also a leading citizen of Peoria. His firm is Mitchell and Cassell, Inc., with offices and salesrooms and service shops at 1601 Main Street, Peoria—Dodge and Plymouth dealers and wholesale distributors of Chrysler motor parts.

Mr. Mitchell was born at Dallas City on the Mississippi, on February 18, 1892, the son of Daniel and Ibbie (Lofton) Mitchell, both also natives of that community. His father, a carpenter, died in 1913, his mother in 1932. Mr. Mitchell was educated in Dallas City's primary and high schools and took his first job with the L. Burg Carriage Company there, working for that firm from 1911 to 1913, and he is thus one of the few "old timers" in the automobile business whose careers have been in both the horse-drawn and the horseless carriage field. After he left the carriage company, he was with Dorch and Dietrick's Garage, automobile dealers and mechanics, also at Dallas City. Soon after the United States became involved in World War I, Mr. Mitchell left his job to enter the military service.

He was overseas with the 302nd Water Tank Train and rose to a sergeancy. Discharged on September 11, 1919, he resumed civilian life as a salesman for the Burroughs Adding Machine Company at Peoria, a firm by which he was employed from 1919 to 1921. From 1921 to 1923 he was with C. W. Frey and Sons, Studebaker dealers at Bloomington, as sales manager and from 1923 to 1926 he held a similar post with the Davis Motor Company of Galesburg, also a Studebaker agency. In 1926 he returned to Peoria to assume the office of general manager of the Illinois Valley Motors, Inc., dealers in Nash and Durant automobiles, with which he remained until 1931. The following year he went into the used car business for himself at Peoria, a business he gave up in 1933 to take over the used car lot of Kinsey-Rutherford, Dodge agency, Peoria, as manager. From 1935 to 1936 Mr. Mitchell was sales manager for the P. A. Singer Motor Company, Chrysler dealers, and from 1937 to 1938 he was general manager of the Joseph Fisher Motor Company. In 1939, he organized Mitchell and Cassell, Inc., and this firm he has since guided to its present great success. As Chrysler motor parts distributor, the firm is active in twenty-eight Illinois counties. It also does a large business in Dodge and Plymouth automobiles and Dodge "job rated" trucks. It employs ninety-seven persons.

Mr. Mitchell married Margaret Sheahan of Galesburg on October 1, 1925, and they have a son, Daniel Sheahan Mitchell, who was born on January 31, 1945. The family home is at 107 South Maplewood Avenue, Peoria.

Active in all phases of community life, Mr. Mitchell is a member of the Peoria Association of Commerce, the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, the Automobile Old Timers Club, the Bradley Boosters Club, the American Legion, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Creve Coeur Club and the Mount Hawley Country Club. Hunting and golf are his favorite sports. The entire Central Illinois area recognizes him as one of the leading figures in the promotion of state prosperity and welfare.



HARRY ARTHUR MITCHELL

BUSH BROTHERS, WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

A firm that began so small that its founders kept the stock in the basement of their joint home and followed the "peddling" method of selling and distributing, Bush Brothers, the wholesalers of candy, fountain supplies, school supplies, janitor supplies, paper and paper specialties at Champaign, now represents a consolidation of several enterprises and does a business in an area running about forty-five miles from Champaign and also within a similar radius of the city of Lafayette, Indiana. It is a membership of the brothers Henry C. Bush and John W. Bush, the founders, with Robert J. Bush, another brother, also associated.

On February 13, 1931, Henry Charles Bush, who had had some experience as a salesman and previously a delivery man in the candy business, left his Lafayette job to survey the Champaign scene as the possible location of a business of his own. The following April 24, his brother John, resigning a research chemist's job with the duPont interests in New York State, joined him. That there was a depression did not daunt the brothers. They bought a truck and an automobile and were in business. In the first year of operations they sold and delivered everything from car or truck, and candy was the chief item of merchandise. In the summer of 1932 a second truck was added. The depression was worse by that time, but by selling largely for cash and keeping expenses down the business was able to grow slowly and was never threatened with insolvency.

In 1934 the third brother, Robert J. Bush, became a member of the partnership. A third truck was purchased and all three brothers sold merchandise and delivered as they sold. In the first year H. C. and J. W. Bush lived at 1110 West Williams Street, in Champaign, and maintained the stock in the basement. In 1932, they moved their business to a two-story house at 602 West Healey Street, making their home in the upper sections and still keeping the merchandise in the basement. In 1936, they rented their present warehouse at 64 Chester Street and hired an office secretary and part-time delivery man. In 1938 they purchased this building and continued to expand.

In the first seven years Bush Brothers primarily sold candy and fountain supplies, but in 1938 the firm began to add a few paper items and at the same time began to change over from the "peddler" type of selling to

the method of a salesman making the sales, with a delivery the following day by truck. During these years the firm worked Champaign and Urbana and the surrounding small towns within a radius of thirty miles. In 1939 the first salesman, assigned chiefly to paper sales, was hired, and the territory was extended to Bloomington, Decatur, Mattoon, Paris and even Terre Haute, Indiana. In 1941 the brothers bought the University Candy Company and in 1942 the General Supply Company, a janitor supply house, and in the following years the firm expanded greatly in janitor supplies, school supplies and wrapping paper and bags of all kinds. In 1944 the firm acquired the Midstate Janitor Supply Company and continued to add salesmen and office help.

In the Spring of 1943 Robert Bush took a two-year leave of absence to return to his native area, near Lafayette, Indiana. At the end of that period his interest was bought by the other two brothers. But in 1947 Robert Bush returned to the firm as its representative in the Lafayette area, and he has since developed a large business within a thirty-mile radius of that city. In the meantime, in 1938, the firm name had been changed from its original Bush Candy Company to Bush Brothers.

The firm now employs twelve full-time and two part-time workers, besides the two partners. The brothers continue to add to their line—they now handle about fifteen hundred items—and, they affirm, have a strong faith in the future.

HENRY CHARLES BUSH

One of the large wholesale concerns in the Illinois-Indiana area is Bush Bros. of Champaign, distributors of candy, fountain, school and janitor supplies and paper and paper specialties. This firm really began when Henry Charles Bush, after some experience in the candy business in his native Indiana, began to sell candy on his own in Champaign in 1931. Out of that brief solitary experience came a partnership with his brother John William Bush and the formation of the Bush Candy Company. For a time another brother, Robert James Bush, was also a partner, but he is now the company's representative at Lafayette, Indiana. Henry C. Bush is not only active in Bush Bros., but also in the community. He is interested in work for young people and in the activities of the Presbyterian Church, as well as in railroading, which is his avocation.

Born in Tippecanoe County, near the county seat, Lafayette, Indiana, on November 28, 1902, Henry Charles Bush is the son of William Henry and Tessie (Zondervan) Bush. His father, a farmer born in The Netherlands, settled with his parents in Tippecanoe County when he was ten years old. He retired in 1944 and died in February, 1948, aged sixty-nine. The mother was the daughter of John and Nellie Zondervan.

Henry C. Bush's education was not as extensive as his brothers', at least in its formal phase, but he has given himself considerable education of a less formal nature. He went through grade school, meantime working on the family farm. He withdrew from school to continue on the farm. Later, however, he took a job as a delivery man for The Smith Candy Company of Lafayette. Within a few months, he was working as a salesman for this company.

The experience he gained with the Smith company gave Mr. Bush the knowledge and confidence he needed to go into business on his own. To do so, he moved to Champaign on February 13, 1931. On April 24, 1931, his brother John joined him, and the Bush Candy Company was born. The story of the progress of this company and its change of name to Bush Brothers and its ever-expanding program is told on other pages of this Illinois history, as are also the life stories of Mr. Bush's brothers. Through his activities as a business man, Mr. Bush has become an outstanding citizen of the Illinois-Indiana area.

He married Virgie Waddell, the daughter of Harry and Harriet Waddell, in Indiana in 1925. They have become the parents of Ilene Mae Bush, who was born on May 19, 1929, and William Harry Bush, who was born on September 26, 1932, and make their home at 1214 West Park Street, in Champaign. Mr. Bush's business address is 64 Chester St. Champaign.

Mr. Bush's work in the community has brought him election to the board of directors of the McKinley Young Men's Christian Association and ordination as an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign. He has been head usher at the church since 1945 and for several years he was a teacher in the Sunday School. He is a Republican and railroading—both in the form of models and the "real thing"—is his hobby. He not only maintains an elaborate model railroad system in his home but actually works on the Illinois Central. During World

War II he realized a lifelong ambition to be a fireman on that line, out of Champaign, in the Champaign District. He belongs to the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. and the Illini Railroad Club. Those who know him best describe this tall graying man as the executive type with exceptional abilities and a warm personality.

JOHN WILLIAM BUSH

The 1929-1939 depression was in its second year and rapidly getting worse when, in 1931, John William Bush, a research chemist, left a good position in New York to come to Illinois and join his brother in the founding of a wholesale candy business. He has never regretted this move, for, with hard work and the application of some good sound American principles, he is a partner in a large, successful and ever-expanding enterprise, the wholesale distributing firm of Bush Bros. at 64 Chester Street, Champaign. He is also prominent in church and veterans' affairs in that community, and is a veteran of World War II.

John William Bush was born on February 13, 1907, at Brookston, White County, Indiana. His parents were William Henry and Tessie (Zondervan) Bush, the latter a daughter of John and Nellie Zondervan. William Henry Bush, a native of The Netherlands, came to the United States when ten years old in the company of his parents. The family settled near Lafayette, Indiana. William Bush farmed all his life and after a modestly successful career retired in 1944. He died in February, 1948, at the age of sixty-nine.

John W. Bush was graduated from the Montmorenci High School, in Indiana, in 1925. An honor student throughout the four years of his high school career, he was the county oratorical winner the year of his graduation. From 1925 to 1929 he was at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, and in 1929 took the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry. Again he was high in scholarship, as well as active on the campus, though he found it necessary to work his way through college. He was elected to Sigma Pi Fraternity.

After his graduation from the university Mr. Bush became a research chemist with the E. I. duPont deNemours Company, in its Fabrikoid Division at Newburgh, New York. On April 24, 1931, having resigned his duPont position, Mr. Bush was in Champaign, where he joined his brother, Henry Charles Bush, in forming what was then called the Bush



J. W. BUSH



HENRY C. BUSH



ROBERT J. BUSH

Candy Company, a wholesale concern. As told in the story of Bush Bros., that firm's present name, in this Illinois history, the business began modestly and grew to its present great proportions. For a time another brother, Robert J. Bush, was also a partner, but he is today the company's representative at Lafayette, Indiana. Robert and Henry Bush are also subjects of separate biographies appearing elsewhere in this history.

On August 24, 1932, John W. Bush married Catherine Louise Smith, the daughter of Richard J. and Alberta Smith. The ceremony was performed at Lafayette. Mrs Bush, following her graduation from high school in 1926, was secretary to Professor Wiley of the Purdue University Agricultural Extension Department. She resigned this position at the time of her marriage. Her interests since then have primarily been that of housewife, but she has also been active in Parent-Teacher Association work, there being two children in the family: Stanley John Bush, who was born on August 29, 1933, and Mary Lou Bush, who was born on August 15, 1937, both in Champaign. The family resides at 507 South Lynn Street, Champaign.

Mr. Bush's activities in the American Legion and Amvets stems from his service in the United States Army in World War II. This service was from April 20, 1944, to November 7, 1944. He is also active in the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign, of which he is an ordained elder. For several years he was chairman of the board of Christian Education and he has been a member and chairman of the church's board of trustees, as well as Sunday School teacher and superintendent. Mr Bush is a Republican. His hobby is making 35-millimeter Kodachrome slides. Serious by nature, he has nevertheless made many friends in the Illinois-Indiana territory.

ROBERT JAMES BUSH

A farmboy and farmer the first twenty-two years of his life, Robert James Bush has since 1934, with the exception of two years, been associated with Bush Bros. of Champaign. This firm, wholesale distributors of candy, fountain, school and janitor supplies and paper and paper specialties, he represents in Lafayette, Indiana, territory, which he developed as a solo operation. He is one of the three brothers who built the company from a candy business into its present expanded form in which it handles about fifteen hundred items of merchandise. He is as well

known in Central Illinois as in his native area, the western portion of Indiana.

The son of William Henry and Tessie (Zondervan) Bush, Robert James Bush was born on the family farm in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, near Lafayette, on July 9, 1912. His mother was the daughter of John and Nellie Zondervan and also came from Tippecanoe County. His father was born in The Netherlands and was brought to the United States by his parents when he was ten years old, the family settling in Tippecanoe County. William Henry Bush was a farmer all his life. He retired in 1944 and in February, 1948, died at the age of sixty-nine.

Robert J. Bush attended the elementary schools and high school in his native region, graduating from the latter in 1931. In his spare time through the school years he worked with his father on the farm, and after leaving high school he gave full time to agricultural pursuits in the home territory.

By 1934, his two brothers, Henry C Bush and John W. Bush, had been operating what was then called the Bush Candy Company in Champaign for three years. Robert Bush left the family farm in that year and joined them. His partnership caused the purchase of the firm's third truck. In 1938, the brothers changed the company's name to Bush Bros., because they were no longer specializing in candy but had taken on numerous other items.

In the Spring of 1943, Robert Bush decided to go to Lafayette and for this purpose took a two-year leave of absence. At the end of that time, his brothers bought his interest in the business. But after various other types of work in Indiana, Mr. Bush "again felt the call for selling", as his brother John put it, and since 1947 he has been selling for Bush Bros. in and around Lafayette. He has built the business there for a radius of thirty miles from that city, and has therefore had much to do with the recent expansion of the concern. The full story of the development of Bush Bros., and the stories of Mr. Bush's two brothers, are told elsewhere in this history of Illinois, in the Library of American Lives.

Robert James Bush and Pauline Dieckman, daughter of Carl and Edna Dieckman, were married in Champaign, Illinois, on July 31, 1937. Mr. Bush's home address is Route 19, Lafayette, Indiana; his business address is 64 Chester Street, Champaign.

He is a Republican. For several years he taught in the Sunday School of the First

Presbyterian Church of Champaign. Six feet tall, weighing 160 pounds, with brown hair, Robert J. Bush is a familiar figure in the business life of a great part of both Illinois and Indiana.

THE CHARLESTON NATIONAL BANK

As a result of the great depression the two banks in Charleston were liquidated.

The First National Bank, chartered in 1863 closed its doors March 7, 1930. The National Trust Bank was reopened for only limited banking service after the moratorium of March 3, 1933, and was placed in the process of liquidation. This left Charleston and the East side of the county with no banking facilities.

A committee was appointed by the Chamber of Commerce to work for the organization of a new bank. This committee, aided by other prominent citizens carried through the sale of stock and organization of The Charleston National Bank. The stock was sold at \$125.00 a share providing a capital of \$100,000.00, a surplus of \$20,000.00 and undivided profits of \$5,000.00. The first Board of Directors selected by the incorporators, and approved by the Comptroller of the Currency, was F. W. Claar, Palmer Cox, Lewis S. Linder, W. A. Panas, Bruce Rardin, S. E. Thomas and Ed Whalen. The only change in the Board since was the result of the death of F. W. Claar in May, 1946, and the election of Charles W. Reynolds to fill the vacancy.

February 5, 1934, the Board of Directors elected S. E. Thomas, President; Bruce Rardin, Executive Vice-President; F. W. Claar, Vice-President and Cashier. All the officers and employees had served either in The First National or National Trust Bank except S. E. Thomas who was head of the department of the Social Sciences at the Eastern Illinois State Teachers College and teacher of Economics, Money and Banking. On January 9, 1940, S. E. Thomas was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors, F. W. Claar, President, and Charles W. Reynolds, Cashier. After the death of Mr. Claar on May 17, 1946, Charles W. Reynolds was elected President, Ronald Kink, Cashier, Lewis Taylor and James L. Archer, Assistant Cashiers.

The Bank opened for business on February 26, 1934, with the definite policy that a bank is a semi-public institution as well as a private corporation; that it should maintain a sound financial institution at all times; that it care for the reasonable credit needs

of its community; that it must merit the cordial confidence of the community. How well it has succeeded can be best illustrated by:

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF CONDITION AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS FEBRUARY 26, 1934, and FEBRUARY 26, 1949, FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARLESTON NATIONAL BANK CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

February 26, 1934

ASSETS	
Loans and Discounts.....	\$ 43,521.49
Banking House.....	30,000.00
Federal Reserve Bank Stock....	3,600.00
Furniture & Fixtures.....	3,000.00
Claims & Warrants.....	996.58
U. S. Bonds.....	135,031.51
Cash and Due from Banks.....	386,759.06
5% Redemption Fund.....	10,000.00
Other Bonds	96,805.32
	<hr/>
	\$709,713.96

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock.....	\$100,000.00
Surplus	20,000.00
Undivided Profits.....	5,000.00
Deposits	584,713.96
	<hr/>
	\$709,713.96

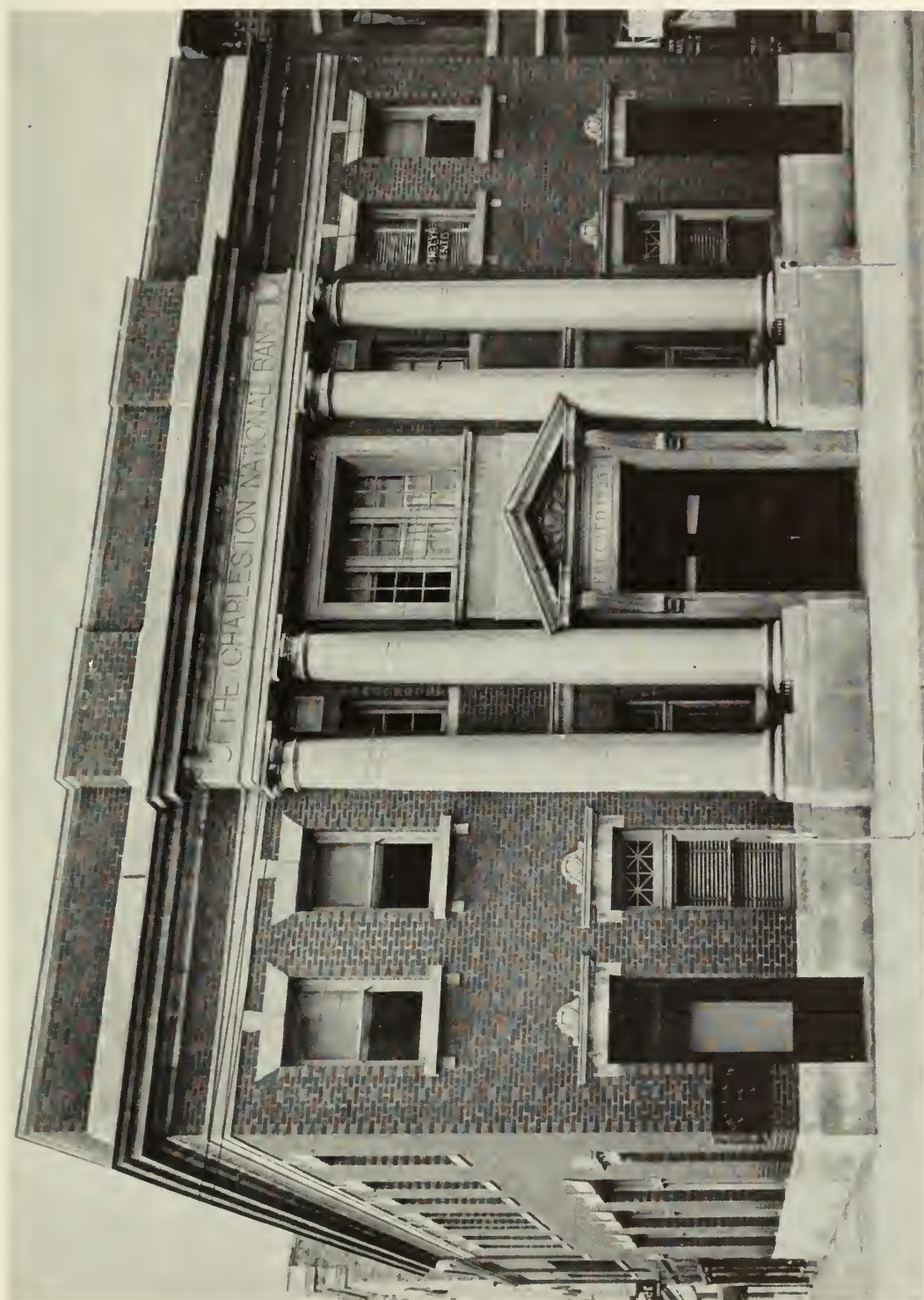
February 26, 1949

ASSETS	
Loans and Discounts.....	\$1,699,405.92
Banking House.....	1.00
Federal Reserve Bank Stock..	6,750.00
Furniture and Fixtures.....	1.00
Claims & Warrants.....	54,451.15
U. S. Bonds.....	3,673,637.49
Cash and Due from Banks....	1,769,522.10
	<hr/>
	\$7,203,768.66

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock.....	\$ 100,000.00
Surplus	125,000.00
Undivided Profits.....	147,119.16
Deposits	6,831,603.01
Other Liabilities.....	46.49
	<hr/>
	\$7,203,768.66

SIMEON E. THOMAS, B.Ph., M.A.

Since 1906 the tall resilient figure of Simeon E. Thomas has been a familiar one in Coles County and its seat, the city of Charleston. Mr. Thomas, who for thirty-six years was head of the department of social sciences at



THE CHARLESTON NATIONAL BANK



S. E. Thomas

Eastern Illinois State College in Charleston, has a wide reputation in the educational world. Former president and at present chairman of the board of directors of the Charleston National Bank, he is equally known in the financial world. He is a man who has served his community and nation in numerous ways, a man of influence in many spheres of endeavor.

Born on February 6, 1872, at Muskingum County, Ohio, Simeon E. Thomas is the son of William H., a native of Ohio, and Louisa J. (Wilson) Thomas, a native of West Virginia. William H. Thomas, whose family emigrated from Virginia to Ohio, was a farmer and blacksmith; his wife was the daughter of George W. Wilson also of Virginia, who fought in the Union Army in the War Between the States.

The educator-banker lived and worked for many years in Iowa, where he received much of his education. In 1898, after four years of study, he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy at Upper Iowa University at Fayette. From 1899 to 1902 he was on the faculty as well as a graduate student of the State University of Iowa at Iowa City. There, in 1902, he was awarded the degree of Master of Arts. He did further graduate work at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, from 1902 to 1904. He returned to Iowa from Harvard, and in 1905 and 1906 was head of the credit department of The Thomas D. Murphy Company at Red Oak. He then came to Illinois, assuming the office of head of the department of social sciences at Eastern Illinois State College in 1906. This post he held until his retirement from teaching in 1942.

On March 29, 1905, at Nora Springs, Iowa, Mr. Thomas married Alice Julia Riche, the daughter of Elmer and Marion (Patterson) Riche. Mrs. Thomas, who is well known in musical and club circles in Charleston, is a graduate of the Faelton School of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, Class of 1904. In addition to being a housewife and mother and a club leader, she has been a piano teacher. For two years she was president of the Charleston Club of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are the parents of five children—Virginia Marion, the wife of Douglas I. Robinson and mother of Richard Robinson; Julia Isabel, the wife of George A. Jahant, Captain, United States Marine Corps, Retired, and mother of Judith Jahant; Louis Edward Thomas, who married Myrtle Keyes and is the father of Lucin and

Karen Thomas; Lucile, the wife of Marvin E. Schuetz and mother of Thomas Raoul, Eric and Johanna Schuetz; and Josephine, the wife of Austen Field. Mr. and Mrs. Simeon E. Thomas reside at 822 Sixth Street, Charleston.

Mr. Thomas' civic activities have been extensive and have paralleled his career at Eastern Illinois State College. He became president of Charleston National Bank in 1934 and held this office until he became chairman of the board in 1939. He was secretary of the board of directors of Charleston Hospital for ten years and in the World War II period was chairman of Board No. 1, Selective System, in Coles County. He is active in the American Historical Association and the Illinois Educational Association. He is a Democrat and Presbyterian. Six feet tall, he weighs 190 pounds. He has always enjoyed good health—and hard work, he reports. He has long been honored in Eastern Illinois for his services to education, civic development, banking and culture.

CHARLES WILLIAM REYNOLDS

Charles William Reynolds of Charleston, seat of Coles County, may be called a "career banker." He obtained his first banking job two days before he finished his school training and a score or more years later, he is president of the institution in which he made his start—The Charleston National Bank.

Mr. Reynolds was born in Cowden, Illinois, on July 17, 1903, the son of Theron Dudley and Grace Melinda (Sellers) Reynolds. His father, born in Cowden on September 2, 1882, has been a merchant and salesman. The mother was born in Cowden on December 9, 1883, and is the daughter of Charles William and Alice (Reinhart) Sellers. Mr. Reynolds attended Cowden's elementary and high schools and then went to Sparks Business College at Shelbyville.

Two days before finishing business college Mr. Reynolds obtained the position of clerk with what was then the National Trust Bank of Charleston. In 1924, a year later, he was made bookkeeper and in 1926 was promoted to head bookkeeper. He became paying and receiving teller in 1930 and assistant cashier in 1931. When the name of the bank was changed to The Charleston National Bank in 1933, he was appointed cashier. In 1936 he was elected to his present office as president. He also serves on the board of directors.

On July 17, 1927, Mr. Reynolds married Mary Davis, daughter of George I. and Flora

E. (Tennery) Davis. Mrs. Reynolds, a teacher before her marriage, was worthy matron of Sopha Chapter, 102, Order of the Eastern Star, and has been a den mother in the Cub Scouts and a leader in the Girl Scouts. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds have one son, Richard Neal, born February 9, 1931, and a daughter, Joyce Elizabeth, born April 21, 1932. The Reynolds home is at 1018 Ninth Street, Charleston.

Mr. Reynolds was an organizer and a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Charleston, and was president in 1936. He was director of the Coles County Fair Association from 1935 to 1949, and for six years was treasurer. He has served as treasurer of the Boosters Club of Eastern State College; finance commissioner under the commission form of government; member of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce; commissioner in the Charleston district, Boy Scouts of America; president of the Coles-Cumberland Bankers Association and member of the agricultural committee, Illinois Bankers Association, District 17. Also he holds the thirty-second degree in Masonry and has served as worshipful master of Charleston Lodge, No. 35, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and worthy Patron, Sopha Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, and is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Loyal Order of Moose. He has been chairman of finance, financial chairman of mission, and chairman of the board of trustees of the First Christian Church of Charleston. A Republican leader, he was the only one of that party elected in the city election of 1937. Horses, dogs and black angus cattle are his hobby. "Young and old, rich and poor, seek his advice and he in turn humbly seeks theirs," writes one who knows him well, "and he is considerate with all."

BRUCE RARDIN

Rardin is a name of Celtic origin which has been known in Coles County for more than a century and it was the family of this name which founded the community of Rardin in that county. Bruce Rardin, member of this outstanding family, is known for his many activities in the county, chiefly that of vice president, trust officer and director of the Charleston National Bank at Charleston, the county seat.

Mr. Rardin was born at Rardin on April 28, 1888, the son of Samuel and Lucy Stone (Ryan) Rardin, the latter a daughter of Lewis and Polly Ann (McCrory) Ryan. Samuel Rardin, the son of John Hull and Malinda (Clark) Rardin, was also born in Coles

County. His grandfather was the Samuel Rardin who established the family name in Coles County, arriving there in 1842. This Samuel Rardin was, in turn, the son of John Rardin, Jr., soldier in the American Revolution who participated in the siege of Boston and the Battle of Cowpens. John Rardin, Jr., was the son of John Rardin, who came to America from County Cork, Ireland, about 1735.

Bruce Rardin completed his academic education at the Eastern Illinois State Normal School, now Eastern Illinois State College, in Charleston, in 1910. Later, he took the standard courses in banking at the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Banking.

Mr. Rardin began his financial career in 1911 when he was made cashier of the Rardin State Bank of Rardin. This office he held until 1924. Subsequently, he was employed by the Champaign National Bank of Champaign and, afterward, by the First National Bank of Harvey, Illinois. In 1933 he was appointed by the Comptroller of the Currency as Conservator of the National Trust Bank of Charleston. This was in the depression period following the now-celebrated "bank holiday" proclaimed by the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The next year Mr. Rardin helped organize the Charleston National Bank of which he became a vice president and member of the board of directors. When the trust department was organized, he was also appointed trust officer. As must be evident from this record, he is well known in banking circles in a far greater area than Coles County.

Mr. Rardin and Gertrude Craig O'Hair of Bushton, the daughter of Harvey Z. and Ida (Craig) O'Hair, were married in that Coles County community on June 25, 1924. Mrs. Rardin is a member of the Bushton Christian Church and the Charleston Women's Club. There is one child, a daughter, Florence May Rardin who was born November 29, 1935. The family home is at 868 Eleventh Street, Charleston.

Mr. Rardin served on the Coles County Board of Supervisors from 1920 to 1924. Having been in the United States Army for nine months in World War I, he is active in the American Legion. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity. His church is the Rardin Presbyterian of Rardin. In politics Mr. Rardin is a Democrat.

Member of a family so long known for its outstanding service to Coles County, Bruce Rardin maintains the tradition extending the service to other areas of Illinois.



CHARLES WILLIAM REYNOLDS



GEORGE SEELY JOHNSTON

GEORGE SEELY JOHNSTON

The reputation George Seely Johnston enjoys in the fields of business, sports, music and service club work has spread from his native Champaign County to all parts of the state. Operator of Johnston's Sport Shop in Champaign, Mr. Johnston is a leading figure in virtually every phase of life in that city and is active in all movements aimed at the general welfare.

Born in Hensley Township on May 25, 1903, Mr. Johnston is the son of Harley T. and Clara Roe (Seely) Johnston. His father, also a native of Hensley Township, is a retired farmer with agricultural interests in Canada, now active in his son's Champaign enterprise. He is a direct descendant of Colonel Charles Johnston of Haverhill, New Hampshire, who played a prominent role in the American Revolution. George Seely Johnston was educated in the Pleasant Ridge Grade School at Staley, the Champaign High School and at the University of Illinois. He holds the Bachelor of Science degree. In February, 1926, Mr. Johnston established Johnston's Sport Shop at 29 Main Street, Champaign. The enterprise operates in two phases: a retail business dealing in equipment for every sport and a wholesale business catering to public schools, stores and Army and Navy camps, with special emphasis on service to post exchanges. The store has grown from a small beginning to one of the outstanding factors in the field of sports in Illinois.

In 1946, Mr. Johnston married Jane Cunningham, the daughter of Scott Green and Jennie May (Payne) Cunningham. The wedding took place in the Bismarck Hotel, Chicago. Mrs. Johnston is former acting manager of the University of Illinois Athletic Association, as well as former president of Beta Phi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. She has also been in the accounting departments of the State Farm Mutual Insurance Company of Bloomington and the Collegiate Cap and Gown Company of Champaign, and ticket manager for the Chicago Rockets. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have two children—Janseely Johnston, born in 1947, and Herbert Scott Johnston, born in 1948. Their home is at 609 South James Street, Champaign.

Some indication of the leadership of Mr. Johnston in public affairs may be obtained from a list of positions he holds or has held. Now president of the Roselawn Cemetary Association of Champaign, he is former president and secretary of the Exchange Club of Cham-

paign and former State Secretary of the Illinois Exchange Clubs. Secretary and chairman of the Champaign Recreation Commission since its organization, he has also occupied the posts of president of the Illinois-Indiana Sporting Goods Association and president of the basketball, softball and baseball independent leagues in Champaign and Piatt Counties. For many years he served on the Champaign Council, Boy Scouts of America; on the board of directors of the McKinley Young Men's Christian Association of Champaign and as superintendent of the Young People's Department of the First Methodist Church of Champaign. Other organizations to which he belongs include the Champaign Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the Champaign Lodge, Loyal Order of Moose, and Delta Upsilon Fraternity. Fishing and travel are his chief relaxations. He continues his activities in fields promoting the general good and continues to earn the gratitude of the public.

FRANK JOSEPH SHOFF

A machinist most of his working life, Frank Joseph Shoff of Peoria has made his success and reputation in machine work and general light manufacturing. He is the operating head of McBride and Shoff's Machine Shop, at 830 Fayette Street, in Peoria, and is also a prominent figure in the city's civic and social life and in industrial circles.

Born in Peoria on May 1, 1902, Mr. Shoff is the son of Frank B. and Frances (Southey) Shoff, both also natives of that city. His father is a gardener. After completing his early education in Peoria's elementary schools, Frank J. Shoff went to high school there and, later, took night courses in mathematics. For twelve years he was a machinist in the employ of the Avery Company of Peoria. When he resigned his job with this concern, he went across the river to Pekin, where for the next two years he was with Standard Brands, Inc. In 1930 Mr. Shoff participated in the organization of McBride and Shoff's Machine Shop and has since guided the firm to its present success. The firm does general machine work and light manufacturing, employing twenty-two persons. Its customers come from all parts of the large Greater Peoria trading territory, throughout which Mr. Shoff is a well known and popular personality.

On October 10, 1923, in Peoria, Mr. Shoff married Bertha Marie Neptune, also a native of that city and the daughter of Eno and

Dina (Cramer) Neptune. Mrs. Shoff's parents were born in Germany. Her father, a miller, died in 1921, her mother died in 1924. Mr. and Mrs. Shoff have one son, Stanley Walter Shoff, who was born on June 16, 1929. The son, who is also associated with McBride and Shoff, married Barbara McVoy and is the father of Mickie Shoff. Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Shoff reside at 3040 Seventh Street, Peoria, and worship in the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Shoff is active in the Peoria Association of Commerce, the Illinois Manufacturers Association and the Masonic fraternity. He is making an outstanding contribution to business and industrial progress in Central Illinois.

JACK CHARLES SWENEY

The largest independent oil marketing organization in Illinois is the Sweney Gasoline and Oil Company of Peoria. Of this concern Jack Charles Sweney is vice president. Aside from distributing oil and gasoline and related products and maintaining service stations, the company operates a soft water service in the City of Peoria. Mr. Sweney is well known both in the oil and softwater operating fields and in the civic life of Peoria.

He is a native of Osage, Iowa. Born on November 11, 1913, he is the son of Paul D. and Olyne (Harris) Sweney. His father is president of the Sweney Gasoline and Oil Company, which was established by the father's brother, Guy D. Sweney, in 1909. The brother died in 1931. Paul D. Sweney is also a native of Osage; his wife was born at Grand Meadow, Minnesota. Jack Sweney first went to school at Osage. Following graduation from Peoria High School, he entered the University of Illinois and in 1936 was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science. The next two years he attended the Tidewater Refining Company's school at Bayonne, New Jersey, graduating in 1938. For the next four years he was with the Tidewater Oil Company's promotion and dealer training department, leaving to enter the military service. Throughout most of American participation in World War II he was with the United States Navy Air Corps, serving in the Atlantic Theater of Operations and attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander. His service was terminated in November, 1945, and he returned to Peoria to associate himself with the Sweney Gasoline and Oil Company. Sent to Springfield as division manager, he remained there until 1948, when he was elected vice president, with offices at Peoria, his

present office and location. Largest independent in Illinois, the Sweney company operates a water terminal and eighteen bulk plants and one hundred dealer and lessee service stations in the state. It employs 125 persons in the oil business. In its softwater plant it employs eleven persons.

Jack Sweney married Ethel Mae Louprette of Boston, Massachusetts, on April 11, 1942, and they have become the parents of a daughter, Jacqueline Beau Sweney, born on September 8, 1946. Their home is at 521 Gilbert Street, Peoria, while Mr. Sweney's office is at 301 South Adams Street.

Mr. Sweney is a director of the Servisoft Operators Association and active in the Illinois Petroleum Marketing Association, the Peoria Association of Commerce, the Ivy Club and the Creve Coeur Club. His fraternity is Phi Gamma Delta. Tennis and boating are his favorite recreations. His activities already have made their influence felt on Illinois' business development.

GEORGE WILLIAM DARMSTAEDTER

In the suburban area of Carlinville, seat of Macoupin County, resides one of the leading business men of downstate Illinois—George William Darmstaedter. The head of a textile concern which he has developed into a million-and-a-half-dollar operation, Mr. Darmstaedter is also associated in outstanding fashion with other business houses and is a leading figure in local and state activities aimed at the general welfare.

Born at St. Louis, Missouri, in 1906, Mr. Darmstaedter is the son of William and Alma (Thelemann) Darmstaedter, both of whom were born in Germany and who came to this country at an early age. The senior Mr. Darmstaedter's birth occurred at a place in the homeland called Darmstadt. George William Darmstaedter, working his way through school, completed his education in the night classes of the City College of Law and Finance in St. Louis, Missouri, where he took degrees in commerce and law. He began his career in the textile business as an office worker for Briell Rodgers Cotton Goods Company. Until 1930, he traveled for that concern as a salesman. Then he spent a year as salesman for G. H. Buchanan and Company. In 1932, he went to Carlinville to take over his present business from the Buchanan company, which was its chief creditor. The annual volume of the business was then about \$15,000. It was Mr. Darmstaedter's management which built the volume to its present \$1,500,000.



FRANK JOSEPH SHOFF



GEORGE WILLIAM DARMSTAEDTER

He is also a member of the board of directors of the Springfield Canada Dry Bottling Company, is president of the Midwest Research and Engineering Company of Carlinville and is interested in other enterprises.

On November 30, 1930, in Chicago, Mr. Darmstaedter married Catherine E. Morton, the daughter of Thomas and E. Morton. Mrs. Darmstaedter is president of the Parent-Teachers Association in Carlinville and active in the Methodist Church. Mr. Darmstaedter is a member of the Nazareth Evangelical Church in St. Louis. The Darmstaedters are the parents of two sons—George William Darmstaedter, Jr., who was born in 1935, and William Darmstaedter, II, named for his grandfather, who was born in 1947.

One of the activities which has helped establish Mr. Darmstaedter's reputation for zeal in the public interest has been United States Savings Bond campaigning. He is not only chairman of the Macoupin County Savings Bond Committee, but also a member of the Illinois State Advisory Committee of the United States Savings Bond Staff. He is a former president of the Lions Club of Carlinville and is also active in the Carlinville Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His political affiliation is with the Republican Party. His hobby is the training of riding horses and his favorite sport is, naturally, horseback riding. Just one-quarter of an inch below six feet in height, he is an imposing figure in the community—popular in the business and social world.

HON. RUFUS JEREMIAH BOND

Bond's Corner, in Mount Vernon, is famed throughout Jefferson County as a center of activities. On the corner stands the Porter and Bond Pharmacy, the oldest firm in Mount Vernon, and from this business and from the man who operated it, at first in partnership and then in sole ownership for fifty-six years the corner has taken its name: the late Rufus Jeremiah Bond, a citizen whose exceptional contribution to business, civic and cultural development in Illinois is still remembered and honored.

Born in Jefferson County on November 11, 1847, Rufus J. Bond was the son of Michael and Maria (Fuller) Bond. His family came to Illinois from Tennessee, but had originated in South Carolina. The mother's family, related to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, pioneered in Jefferson County. Rufus Bond first attended the rural schools of his native county. He worked as a farm hand

at fifty cents a day and taught in the rural schools as he grew older. In 1866 he became an employee of Dr. Porter, who had founded Mount Vernon's first drug store, about 1865. In 1868 Dr. Porter made his employee a partner, and the firm became known as Porter and Bond. Mr. Bond became its sole owner just prior to World War I. It is today still under Bond ownership. At first on North Tenth Street, the pharmacy now stands at Tenth and Broadway, at the southwest corner of the Square—the corner known as Bond's Corner. Rufus Bond continued active in the management of the business until his death on December 15, 1924.

Mr. Bond's wife was Mary Jane (England) Bond, who died in 1929. Seven children were born to the marriage—Norman, who died in infancy; Maude, who also died in infancy; Harry E., who died in 1925; Anna L. Bond; Neil K., who died in 1943; Grover C., who died in 1931; Gretta, who became the wife of Joe N. Marquis. Anna L. Bond, educated in local schools and at the University of Illinois, where she took the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts, and in France and Germany, was one of the first Mount Vernon girls to attend a co-educational school. She taught in the Mount Vernon Township High School from 1915 to 1943. She is of such prominence in Mount Vernon as to have served as vice president of the Business and Professional Women's Club of that city. She was prominent in University of Illinois organizations, being a member of the English Club, the German Club and a Phi Beta Kappa in her student days. Her brother Neil had one son, Dr. R. J. Bond, who was on his way to fame as an oral and plastic surgeon when he died in 1948, leaving a widow and two daughters, Mary Jane and Julia Ann Bond. After the death of Rufus Bond, the Porter and Bond drug store was conducted by Neil and Grover Bond until their respective deaths. In 1948 it was acquired from the other heirs by Anna L. Bond, and Mrs. Gretta Bond Marquis who continue the business with modern progressive adaptations of the traditions and policies established by their late father.

The pharmacy was not Rufus Bond's only interest. He served as president of the Mount Vernon Loan and Building Association and was a director in the Third National Bank and the Mount Vernon Car Company. In his volunteer activities he served on the board of trustees of the University of Illinois and as County Treasurer of Jefferson County. He was a man of high integrity and devotion to his chosen business, which he regarded as a

profession. A true Christian gentleman, the nobility of his faith was reflected in his appearance, enhanced by a Van Dyke beard. One of Jefferson County's great men, he left a heritage for the future—a heritage which his daughters are passing on through efforts as strenuous and sincere as his own.

JOHN WILLARD JONES

A leading automobile dealer in Southern Illinois and the Greater Egyptian area is John Willard Jones of Cairo. He is the sole owner of the Riverside Chevrolet Company of Cairo. Mr. Jones is not only active in business and business organizations in Cairo and Alexander County, but also in civic activities tending to promote the development of the region. He is a large landowner at Mattoon.

Born in Seymore, Champaign County, on February 5, 1894, Mr. Jones is the son of John and Ida (Mendal) Jones. His father, a farmer, came to the United States from County Cork, Ireland. The mother was a native of Illinois. John Willard Jones is the fifth of six children, the others being Mabel, Ethel, Nina, Edward, now deceased, and Raymond, also deceased. He attended public school at Seymore and Mattoon, quitting, because of family circumstances, when he was in the eighth grade. He worked on the farm until he was twenty-two years old, when he went to Detroit, Michigan. There he obtained his first job off the farm—that of usher in a vaudeville theater. Later, he worked for the Chalmers Motor Company of Detroit and the Detroit-Jewell Stove Company. In 1917, Mr. Jones returned to Mattoon, but soon afterward, the United States having entered World War I, he went into the Army. He served at Camp Grant until his discharge in 1919, with the rank of Corporal.

Once more he returned to Mattoon and with that city as a base sold subscriptions for *The Prairie Farmer* in several counties. Then he farmed for three years on 120 acres near Mattoon which he had rented. At the end of this period Mr. Jones went to Springfield, the State capital, and there worked for the Service Recognition Board for a year and one-half and, afterward, for the State Senate as a committee clerk for two years. Next, he sold Hudson and Essex automobiles for six months and then was a salesman for a Chevrolet dealer in Springfield for eleven years. In 1936 he bought an interest in the Riverside Chevrolet Company in Cairo, and with his partner operated it until 1947. Since that year, when he bought out his partner's in-

terest, he has been sole owner. He has developed the business to a point where much of Alexander County is his territory. Fourteen persons are employed on his sales and service staff and in his office.

On September 8, 1932, Mr. Jones married Gayle Akers, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jaushen Akers, of Mattoon. They are the parents of a son, Donald Jones, born November 9, 1931, who graduated from the Cairo High School, attended Western Military Academy at Alton, and is now a student at Southern Illinois University. They worship in the Methodist Church.

Mr. Jones is a director of the Retail Merchants Association of Cairo and is now serving on the board of the Egyptian Country Club, of which he is a former president and vice-president. He is also active in the National Automobile Dealers Association, the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association, the Kiwanis Club of Cairo, the Cairo Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Cairo Association of Commerce. He owns 120 acres of land at Mattoon. These he rents out. He is considered one of the leading business men of Cairo and is respected as a citizen working for the benefit of the city and region.

JACK EVERETT HORSLEY, A.B., LL.B.

A familiar figure in the State and Federal Courts in Illinois is that of Jack Everett Horsley, an outstanding member of the Illinois Bar. Member of the law firm of Craig and Craig, Mattoon, Mr. Horsley is prominent in the railroad world, in the field of education, in professional, fraternal and veterans' organizations. He has had a distinguished military career.

Mr. Horsley was born in Sioux City, Iowa, on December 12, 1915, the son of Charles Ellsworth and Edith Viola (Timms) Horsley. His father, the son of Joseph Horsley, who pioneered in lead mining and plastering at Lafayette County, Wisconsin, is a retired Master Mechanic who spent years with the Illinois Division, Illinois Central Railroad. His mother is the daughter of Benjamin Funk and Emma (Sampson) Timms, who were early settlers in Stephenson County; she is the granddaughter of Dr. Arch Sampson, member of the Dartmouth class of 1842, who was a pioneer physician at Fairplay, Wisconsin. Jack E. Horsley, after attending James H. Bowen High School, Chicago, studied at the University of Illinois. In June, 1937, he took his Bachelor of Arts degree; two years later he took the degree of Bachelor of Laws.



JOHN WILLARD JONES



JACK EVERETT HORSLEY, LL.B.

He was elected to Delta Phi, Sigma Delta Kappa and the Adelpic Debating Society.

Except for the time he spent in the military service in World War II, Mr. Horsley has been active with Craig and Craig in Mattoon. From June, 1939, to January 1, 1948, he was an associate member of the firm. Since January 1, 1948, he has been a member. The firm's practice was founded by James W. Craig in 1868. The firm has been in continuous practice under its present name at the same location, 1803 Broadway, Mattoon, since then. Besides Mr. Horsley, the following are members of the firm today: Judge J. Craig Van Meter, Fred H. Kelly, Robert M. Werden, Howard W. Campbell and David E. Furnall. Associate attorneys are J. H. Anderson, John C. Robison and John E. Jacobsen. The firm handles trial practice, real estate, oil and gas and probate practice. It has offices both at Mattoon and Mount Vernon. Among the clients are oil companies, various big railroads (Mr. Horsley is local attorney for the Illinois Central), insurance firms and others.

Mr. Horsley has been married twice. His first wife was Sallie Kelley, daughter of Edward L. and Olive (Phelps) Kelley. The wedding took place in Champaign on June 12, 1939. She died February 7, 1949. The entire community mourned her untimely passing. A graduate of Rockford High School, the first Mrs. Horsley was captain of the Women's Varsity Swimming Team and the Terapin (women's swimming) Club at the University of Illinois. Mr. Horsley married (second) Bertha Jane Newland, daughter of Charles A. and Bertha (Cavanaugh) Newland. This marriage was solemnized at Pawnee on February 24, 1950. The present Mrs. Horsley is a graduate of the Mattoon High School and St. John's School of Nursing, Springfield. She practiced as a Registered Nurse in both Illinois and New Mexico and was highly noted as a skilled and able practitioner.

Mr. Horsley's military career began June, 1937, when he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve. In June, 1940, he was promoted to First Lieutenant. He was detailed as Staff Judge Advocate, Air Transport Command assignments; served as such with the Seventh Group, Great Falls, Montana, and in the European Theater. On January 10, 1946, he was placed on inactive status. He was then a Lieutenant Colonel, the rank he continues to hold in the Reserve. At home he is active in both the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He is also active in the

Masonic order and in the Coles County and American Bar Associations. From 1946 to 1948 he was president of the Board of Education, Mattoon School District. A prominent third-generation Republican, he served on the board of the Young Republicans Club of Coles County in 1946-1947. He has been a member of the Christian Science Mother Church, Boston, since 1930. For two terms (1937-1939) he was a reader in Christian Science at the University of Illinois. Reading and golf are his recreations.

A further fact about Mr. Horsley: he is the father of Pamela Horsley, born in Mattoon March 11, 1942, and Charles E. Horsley, II, born in Mattoon February 2, 1945. Both are the children of his late first wife. He is famed as a father as well as citizen.

JEROME J. SHOLEM

Member of a pioneer merchandising family of Illinois, Jerome J. Sholem today heads two major businesses in Champaign—a retail shoe store, which in 1945 celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary, and the Kiler Furniture Company, which he acquired with his sons, Myron J., Stanford H., and William Sholem II, third generation in the business, when they joined him in the various Sholem enterprises. In addition to these firms, Mr. Sholem owns and operates business properties in the central business district of Champaign, in the University of Illinois campus area, and in Paris, Edgar County, where his family began its early commercial activities. Veteran of World War I, Mr. Sholem is active in the American Legion and the Elks Lodge, as well as other civic and organizational work.

Born at Paris on October 20, 1895, Jerome J. Sholem is the son of William and Flora (Grabenheimer) Sholem. His father, who was born at Terre Haute, Indiana, on March 2, 1852, pioneered as a merchant in Edgar County, with headquarters in Paris. He became an outstanding citizen of the state, a man whose contribution to progress and welfare is still well remembered and honored. On his mother's side, Jerome Sholem is a grandson of the late Meyer Grabenheimer who pioneered in retail merchandising in Clark County, before the Civil War. His paternal grandfather, Meyer Grabenheimer emigrated from Coblenz, Germany and established a retail store at Marshall, Illinois, in Clark County that has been continuously in operation since 1848. This store has just recently been remodeled into one of the most modern clothing and shoe stores in southern Illinois.

Jerome Sholem was graduated from the Paris High School in 1913. At high school he was the editor of "Arena," the school paper. He then attended college at the University of Notre Dame at South Bend, Indiana, where he was staff correspondent for the old Chicago Record-Herald and personally covered the early football victories for Knute Rockne's famous forward-passing football team in 1913. At the University of Illinois, where he later transferred, he was night editor of the "Daily Illini". Also, he was elected to Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity.

On completing his education Mr. Sholem returned to Paris and there joined his father and brother David in the retail shoe business, and with his brother and father, erected the first office building in Paris, on the East side of the square. This was in 1915. When the United States entered World War I, Mr. Sholem enlisted in the 307th Field Artillery and, made a Sergeant, was attached to its Battery C. At the end of the war, instead of returning to the family partnership at Paris, Jerome Sholem established himself in Champaign. He opened his first shoe store at 312 North Hickory Street. But the business grew to such an extent that in 1924 he was obliged to move to larger quarters at the corner of Neil and Church Streets. Ten years later, he made yet another move, this time to his own building at No. 8 and 10 Main Street. This is the location in which was celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Sholem's activity in the shoe business, in 1945. In the World War II period, Mr. Sholem opened branches at Rantoul and Table Grove, Illinois, and in Franklin, Indiana. The Rantoul store is still in operation. In 1948, when his sons became his partners, Mr. Sholem purchased the C. A. Kiler Furniture Store at 24-26 Main Street, Champaign, from Charlie Kiler. The Kiler store was completely modernized and has been continued in operation along with the Sholem shoe store. Mr. Sholem owns the business building at the corner of Main and Walnut Streets and an apartment building at 509 East Green Street in Champaign as well as other properties in Paris. He is a partner in the Paxton Oil Syndicate

In St. Louis on February 19, 1922, Mr. Sholem was married to Faye Siegal, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Siegal. They have three sons: Myron J., and Stanford H., both of whom are graduates of the University of Illinois, and William H. who is a student at the Champaign High School. The family home

is at 1016 West University Avenue, Champaign, and they worship at Sinai Temple.

Jerome J. Sholem is a member of the Champaign Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the National Shoe Retailers' Association; the National Furniture Dealers Association; the Grand Rapids Furniture Makers Guild; the Champaign Post of the American Legion and the Champaign Chamber of Commerce. The contribution he has made to growth of the Champaign-Urbana area is widely acknowledged.

GEORGE HUDSON MUGGE

From George Hudson Mugge of Harrisburg comes leadership which has helped forward progress and growth in many fields in Saline County. He is the owner and operator of the Royal Crown Bottling Company of Harrisburg, a developer of the Saline County Fair Association and the agricultural, commercial, industrial and civic pursuits it espouses and an outstanding figure in fraternal and veterans' circles. In World War II, he made his talents available to the American war effort, serving as an Army officer.

Mr. Mugge was born in Harrisburg on May 11, 1900, the second of the three children of George Guy and Hortense (Hudson) Mugge. His father, who was born at Shawneetown, the seat of Gallatin County, is a retired merchant. For years the elder George Mugge was active in public life at Harrisburg. He was one of the men who sank the first deep-shaft coal mine in Saline County. He served on the Harrisburg school board for forty-five years and was chairman of the campaign which raised the funds for the first hospital in the county. For thirty years he served as president of the City National Bank of Harrisburg. He was prominent among Republicans. His father was George Mugge, also of Shawneetown, a lumberman. George Hudson Mugge's mother was the daughter of Dr. James Hudson, well known Williamson County physician.

Mr. Mugge began his education in the public schools of Harrisburg. Graduated from the Harrisburg High School in 1917, he went on to the University of Illinois and in 1921 was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He was the president of the junior class at the university and was elected to Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. Soon after taking his degree Mr. Mugge returned to Harrisburg and joined his father in the mercantile business, becoming general manager of the store, which was



JEROME L. SOLEM

known throughout the county simply as Mugge's. The store burned down in 1924 and the Mugges did not rebuild. George H. Mugge then entered the produce business, which he followed from 1924 to 1941. He now owns farms in North Dakota and Arkansas aggregating 2,300 acres. In 1946, he became operator of the Royal Crown Bottling Company of Harrisburg, which has a territory of four counties. Mr. Mugge is well known in the beverage industry.

On December 15, 1944, Mr. Mugge married Sorado Joyner, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Werner Joyner of Harrisburg. Mrs. Mugge is well known in the community. She and Mr. Mugge are members of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Mugge was in the Quartermaster Corps, United States Army, at the time of his marriage. He went into the service in 1941 and was separated on August 29, 1945. He was then holding the rank of Major. He served as a purchasing and contracting officer for the Quartermaster Corps in various parts of the United States. Today he is one of the outstanding personalities in the American Legion in Saline County. He is past commander of the Harrisburg Post and is president of the American Legion Home Association. Another channel through which he is serving the county is the Saline County Fair Association, of which he is also president. He, in association with others, bought the forty acres for the Fair Grounds in Harrisburg and spent \$60,000 on improvements. Also, he has organized a Saddle Club in connection with the Fair. He serves on the Harrisburg board of education and is past exalted ruler of the Harrisburg Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Also, he belongs to the Masonic order, being a Noble of the Shrine at East St. Louis, and to the Loyal Order of Moose and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. For years until 1941, he was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Harrisburg. His interests and activities have made him outstanding in Saline County.

HAROLD P. KLINKE

The Postmaster of Alton, Harold P. Klinke, is known throughout Illinois. He is a man who has been active in numerous spheres of interest, including business, politics and civic affairs. He is vice president of the Klinke Ice Company and a partner in the Klinke Ice and Fuel Company, both of which operate in and out of Alton, and he is a prominent figure in the ice and fuel industry and in

the stoker and locker industries, and he is one of the outstanding citizens of Madison County.

Postmaster Klinke was born in Alton on October 31, 1911, the son of John and Mary (Schenk) Klinke, both also natives of Madison County. The father established an ice manufacturing plant in Alton, known as the Klinke Ice Company. The future postmaster attended St. Mary's Parochial School and Marquette High School, graduating from the latter in 1929. In 1933, he took the degree of Bachelor of Commercial Science at the St. Louis School of Commerce and Finance of St. Louis University. He majored in accounting so that he could "cope" with the problems of business, he says. During his years at college Mr. Klinke was in complete charge of the books and accounting at his father's ice plant and returned to Alton every afternoon from St. Louis to hold down his full-time job. He had also been active in the ice plant in his high school days.

When he left the university in 1933, Mr. Klinke organized the Klinke Ice and Fuel Company, a retail organization to distribute the major portion of the ice made by his father's manufacturing company. This meant the organization of a fleet of trucks and a corps of drivers. The coal yard he added also did a wholesale business, and the firm, in addition, handled stokers. It was one of the first stoker dealers in the area and offered a complete service. The company since has added 850 food lockers and it processes and quick-freezes meat. The ice and fuel company operates thirteen trucks and one wholesale truck, and serves an area in a radius of twenty-five miles of Alton, giving nearby small towns the same advantages they would have with plants of their own. Thirty-five are employed. Mr. Klinke is vice president of Klinke Ice Company and is a partner of John W. Lauer in the Klinke Ice and Fuel Company.

On June 20, 1933, Mr. Klinke married Mary R. Kirk, the daughter of William Kirk of Alton. They have two children—Patricia Jean, born September 11, 1934, and Harold Anthony, born September 15, 1940. Both were, in 1949, in Alton's parochial schools. The family belongs to St. Patrick's Parish and is active in its work.

Mr. Klinke's interest and activity in public affairs brought him to the attention of President Harry Truman and on October 31, 1944, his thirty-third birthday, he was sworn into office as Postmaster of Alton. That city is a

first class post office, doing a quarter-million dollars' business a year and employing about eighty persons. On a recent Post Office Department inspection, the Alton Post Office achieved the grade of ninety-six percent, the highest in the history of that post office, and this achievement was directly attributed to the man now heading it.

Postmaster Klinke is a member of the Madison County Postmasters Association, the National Postmasters Association, the Greater Alton Association of Commerce, the Knights of Columbus, the Elks, Rotary and Rock Springs Country Club. He is a Democrat and golf is his favorite recreation. He also belongs to the organizations in his field of business, and is a former director of the Illinois State Locker Association. It goes without saying that he is one of the popular citizens of Alton.

HON. C. DALE CARPENTER

To say that, as credit manager of the Mount Vernon Furnace and Manufacturing Company of Mount Vernon, C. Dale Carpenter has achieved an outstanding position among the citizenry of that community and that section of the state is to tell only half the story. For, in addition to his activity in this big business concern and related commercial fields, Mr. Carpenter has made himself an invaluable citizen of Mount Vernon and Jefferson County. He has served as chairman of the city's Fire and Police Commission and helped give the municipality one of the finest systems of security and safety in the downstate region, he has been a Boy Scout leader and an officer in various civic groups, including the First Methodist Church, and in various ways aided the causes of health, welfare and culture.

Mr. Carpenter was born on a farm in Wayne County on November 30, 1899, the son of Fred and Annette (Chase) Carpenter. His father, a farmer and leading Methodist layman, was a native of Charitan, Iowa, brought to Illinois by his parents when he was a year and one-half old. The mother is also a native of Wayne County. Dale Carpenter spent his boyhood on the family farm, attending rural schools until he was fourteen. For two years he attended high school at Dahlgren, in Hamilton County, and for his final two years he was at Mount Vernon High School. After high school, he taught for two terms in a one-room rural school in his native county. In 1921 he went to Urbana and matri-

culated at the University of Illinois. He was unable to continue until he received his degree, for three years after his entrance he was obliged by financial difficulties to leave. On May 1, 1925, after temporary employment with others, Mr. Carpenter entered the employ of the Mount Vernon Furnace and Manufacturing Company. His first post was that of bookkeeper. But he soon rose in responsibility and authority and by 1937 was a member of the company's board of directors. His present duties come under the heading of credit manager. He is also the public relations representative of the company. When he joined the company, it manufactured furnaces and laundry stoves. But in 1928, an enameling plant was erected and since then the concern has produced a variety of units, including enameled gas and coal stoves, ranges and furnaces. All its products are sold through jobbers. In Mr. Carpenter's time with the company its payroll has grown from fifty-five to three hundred twenty-five. Mr. Carpenter has become well known in the business.

In 1939 Mr. Carpenter married Grace Bratlie of Madison, Wisconsin, and they are the parents of three children—Donald Dale Carpenter, born June 2, 1942; Jerry Alden Carpenter, born April 21, 1944, and Floyd Winston Carpenter, born February 23, 1946. The entire family worships in the First Methodist Church, in which Mr. Carpenter is chairman of the official board and, consequently, also the head of several important committees.

In the community at large, Mr. Carpenter gave five years of service on the Fire and Police Commission, from 1944 to 1949, and was chairman in his final year. The present modern fire-fighting equipment of the city was purchased during his administration. He was the Boy Scout leader in the Lions Club of Mount Vernon in 1928 and served as Scoutmaster for the years 1926-1928 inclusive. He was on various boards of the Lions Club until he became president in 1938-39, having served in the capacities of program chairman, attendance chairman and song leader. For three years he was on the board of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce. He has been prominent in Masonry since the 1920's and is active in the Blue Lodge, Royal Arch Masons and the Knights Templar. He is on the board and greens committee chairman of the Green Hills Country Club. In World War II, he was payroll division chairman in Bond drives. He has amply proved his value as a citizen.

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